
"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
(Matthew 16:18)

I. Who Do You Say I Am? (vv.13-16)

- a. It was easy to see how confused people were about Jesus. He was unique in purpose.
- b. We can never make a true decision about Jesus Christ by taking a poll. It is not what others say, but what do *you* and *I* personally say.
- c. Peter had the correct response: *You are the Christ*. This was revealed to Peter by an act of God.
 1. God chooses to reveal Himself to us.
- d. The term *Christ* is the Greek equivalent for the Hebrew term, meaning "anointed one".
- e. Traditionally, three sorts of people had been anointed with oil: prophets, priests and kings. Jesus fulfilled the expectations of those roles.
 1. As the priest, only Jesus perfectly put people in touch with God.
 2. As the prophet, only Jesus perfectly showed people what God was like.
 3. As the king, only Jesus perfectly exercised God's rule over God's people while being a servant.
- f. Just as He did with the disciples, Jesus reveals Himself to us today. Who do you say He is?

II. "Peter, You Are the Rock" (vv. 17-20)

- a. *Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.*
- b. Peter is a man with a unique role in salvation-history. God used His faith to bring a new people into the Kingdom. (Catholic vs. Protestant) (Person vs. Pointing or both)
 1. Jesus honors Peter and makes him "foundational" in the Church.
 2. We could say that Peter was the first *stone* that Jesus picked up to build His church.
 3. The Lord used Peter to open the gates of the kingdom to the Jews and the Gentiles. (Acts 2 & 10)
- c. *I will build my church*. Christ used Peter's faith, leadership and preaching for the foundation of the Church, but Jesus is the Chief cornerstone.
 1. The Chief church builder is the living Christ. Christ-centeredness is the key to church building.
- d. Even today, Jesus uses Christ-centered disciples to build churches around the world.
- e. There is one church, one body, one faith and one Lord.
- f. What were the "keys of the kingdom?" The Gospel of Jesus Christ. Hell shall not prevail (win) against the Word and mission of God.
- g. Jews, Samaritans and Gentiles were ushered into the Church (*ekklesia, called out ones*) kingdom by the apostles and their followers by declaring Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

III. Lessons on Binding and Loosing

- a. *Syncretism* is the attempt to combine different or opposite doctrines and practices.
- b. The words "loose" and "bind" are understood in two ways: doctrinally and disciplinarily.
- c. Doctrinally, to *loose* is to "permit, command" and to *bind* is to "forbid, warn"
 1. When the Gospel is preached and received Kingdom doors are opened and closed. The Gospel commands obedience to Jesus and we are warned of the dangers of this world.
- d. Disciplinarily, the Lord gives the Church the right to ban (bind) disobedient believers and to admit repentant believers back again (loose).
- e. Heaven's authority stands behind the holy binding and losing here on earth and gives authority to the church.
- f. Every believer has been given "kingdom keys" to usher in new believers, to teach kingdom obedience/responsibilities, and to warn of worldly dangers. Are you using your "kingdom keys!"