16:13-28

Review...

- o FIRST The Presentation of the King **Matthew 1-7**
- o SECOND The Ministry of the King Matthew 8-18
- o Seeking a Sign...
 - The PHARISEES and SADDUCEES came to Jesus a SECOND time seeking a SIGN...
 - But Jesus pointed out they could SEE just fine [predicting the weather]
 - How is it they had NOT been able to SEE the miracles He had done HYPOCRITES...
 - The ONLY sign He could give them was JONAH the sign of the RESURRECTION!
- Beware the Leaven...
 - The DISCIPLES had forgotten to bring bread with them...
 - Therefore when Jesus warned them to BEWARE the leaven of the PHARISEES and SADDUCEES...
 - They did NOT understand Jesus was NOT worried about food [feeding 5000]
 - He WARNING them about the deceptive TEACHINGS of the religious leaders!

• 1ST - Who is Jesus... vs. 13-19

- o 1st Lot of opinions... vs. 13-15
 - The Location [Video]
 - When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi!
 - Jesus took the disciples SIXTY kilometers NORTH near Mount Hermon [2814 meters]
 - To the city of Paneas renamed by Philip the Tetrarch [son of Herod the Great]
 - Who called it Caesarea [from Caesar] Philippi [after himself]
 - It was a PAGAN city famous for the TEMPLE to the god PAN!
 - PAN was the god of the underworld [hell] his name is where we get the word PANIC...
 - The picture of goat man with horns and a pitchfork [satan] comes from PAN...
 - Likely satan spread this description of himself so people would NOT recognize him...
 - Satan is not ugly God created him as the perfection of beauty Ezekiel 28:12
 - Son of Man...
 - He asked His disciples saying: Who do men say that I am the Son of Man?
 - Jesus kept asking [imperfect] His DISCIPLES who did MEN [ἄνθρωπος] say He was...
 - With the temple of PAN in front of them full of famous GREEK gods...
 - Men could name them ALL describe each of them but how about the SON of man...
 - SON of man 78x in the gospels emphasizing the humanity of Jesus Isaiah 7:14
 - John the Baptist...
 - Some [$\mu \acute{\epsilon} \nu$] for SURE thought Jesus was JOHN resurrected...
 - Herod the Tetrarch [brother of Philip] believed this **Matthew 14:2**
 - Elijah...
 - Others [ἄλλος] held the common view Jesus was ELIJAH the prophet...
 - The very last verse of the Old Testament promised the return of ELIJAH Malachi 4:5
 - But Jesus confirmed John the Baptist was ELIJAH for believers **Matthew 11:14**
 - Though for unbeliever ELIJAH will return as one of the TWO witnesses **Revelation 11:3**
 - Prophet...
 - Jeremiah or one of the prophets!
 - Still others [ἕτερος] had another opinion assumed Jesus was a PROPHET [like Jeremiah]
 - Interesting to see how many OPINIONS there were about Jesus...

- Things have NOT changed there are still a lot of OPINIONS today!
- Secular HISTORY: believes Jesus was a real historical figure but there is NO God...
- ISLAM: believes Jesus was just a prophet though less than Muhammad...
- HINDUS: believe Jesus was a reincarnated perfect man [avatar]
- JEHOVAH Witnesses: believe Jesus is Michael the Arch angel...
- MORMONS: believe Jesus is the brother of Lucifer [satan]
- It seems people CANNOT ignore Jesus but they also CANNOT agree on who He is!
- The choice... vs. 15
 - [Jesus] said to them: But who do you say that I am?
 - Jesus SAYS [present] who do you SAY [present] I AM!
 - It is NOT important what others say [opinions] what do WE say...
 - God does not care what RELIGION we are or who LABEL we carry...
 - When we stand before God one day the Great White Throne Revelation 20:12
 - Our SALVATION is based on being able to answer TWO very important truths...
 - WHO Jesus is [God] and WHY did God become a MAN [to die]!
- o 2nd Right Answer... vs. 16-17
 - Simon Peter... vs. 16
 - Simon Peter answered and said!
 - SIMON [שמעון] to HEAR or LISTEN...
 - PETER [Πέτρος] a ROCK to be hard headed [not listen]
 - As we will see it is NOT accidental that BOTH names are used here!
 - The Christ... vs. 16
 - You are the Christ. The Son of the living God!
 - PETER tried to answer BOTH questions and got ONE right...
 - FIRST SIMON did know WHO Jesus was...
 - He was NOT just the SON of man God with us [Immanuel]
 - He was also the SON of the living God the SECOND person of the TRINITY!
 - SECOND PETER did NOT know WHY Jesus came...
 - He called Jesus the Christ [Χριστός] or [מֲשֶׁיהַ] meaning the anointed one!
 - The problem was the Jews did NOT understand WHY the Messiah [Christ] came...
 - They were looking for a KING who would conquer the world **Revelation 20:4**
 - But they missed that the MESSIAH had to first CONQUER our SIN!
 - From Heaven... vs. 17
 - Jesus answered and said to him: Blessed are you Simon Bar-Jonah.
 - For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but My Father who is in heaven!
 - SIMON [heard] was BLESSED because of WHO he was listening to...
 - Knowing WHO Jesus was did not come from his UNDERSTANDING [flesh and blood]
 - It was REVEALED [ἀποκαλύπτω] to him by the FATHER in heaven!
 - The reason why the world has so many OPINIONS about Jesus...
 - $\bullet \hspace{0.4cm}$ Is because they are looking to MEN to give them the answers...
 - They trust in HISTORY or listen to RELIGION or SCHOLARS...
 - But the only one who can tell us WHO Jesus is is the Holy Spirit I Corinthians 2:14
 - Jesus [יְהוֹשֻׁעַ] Yahweh Shua is the God who SAVES us!
- o 3^{rd} The Rock... vs. 18
 - The Church...
 - I also say to you that you are Peter and on this rock I will build My church!
 - CHURCH [ἐκκλησία] 118x in NT first used here in the Bible...
 - Those who are CALLED [$\kappa\alpha\lambda\acute{\epsilon}\omega$] out [$\acute{\epsilon}\kappa$] of the world...

- Contrary to what some denominations teach [first Pope]
- Jesus did NOT build His CHURCH [οἰκοδομέω] on PETER [Πέτρος] little pebble...
- He built it on the ROCK [πέτρα] that is the statement of WHO He is the SON of God!
- I Corinthians 3:11 "No one can lay any foundation other than... Jesus Christ." [NLT]
- The doctrine of the DEITY of Jesus is the RED line that cannot be crossed...
- It is what makes a RELIGION that claims to believe in Christ a CULT...
- There is great diversity within the Body of Christ I Corinthians 12:27
- And we can agree to disagree and a VAST collection of non-essentials...
- But we CANNOT disagree on Deity of Jesus [trinity] its the FOUNDATION of the CHURCH!
- Gates of Hell...
 - The gates of Hades shall not prevail against it!
 - When the CHURCH is built on the RIGHT foundation [Jesus is God]
 - Then there is NO way for the HELL [ἄδης] to defeat it **Romans 8:31**
 - It is worth noting that GATES do NOT attack they are used to defend...
 - Meaning the CHURCH is called to be on the OFFENSIVE we storm the GATES of HELL...
 - We are called to go OUT and save those who are headed for DESTRUCTION!
 - **Jude 1:23** "Rescue [them] by snatching them from the flames of judgment." [NLT]
 - The ruins of the temple at PAN at Caesarea Philippi are worth noting...
 - The temple is full of MANY places where IDOLS would have stood [who do men say I am]
 - And NEXT to the temple is a large CAVE called the GATES of hell [dwelling place of Pan]
 - But above it all is a large ROCK that dominates over all!
 - We might NOT think it is our responsibility to share Jesus with others...
 - And while it is true God does NOT need us Revelation 14:6
 - He does COMMAND us to go out and share the GOOD news with EVERYONE Matthew 28:19
 - And adds the PROMISE that if we do we will see people get SAVED!
- o 4th The Keys... vs. 19
 - I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.
 - Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven.
 - And whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven!
 - What are the KEYS the answer to the TWO questions...
 - WHO is Jesus and WHY did He become a man or what we refer to the as the GOSPEL...
 - We choose [subjunctive] what to do with those KEYS open or close HEAVEN...
 - Anyone who we do NOT give the GOSPEL to is bound on EARTH [aorist] and in HEAVEN [future]
 - Anyone who we give the GOSPEL [keys] to is set free on EARTH [aorist] and in HEAVEN [future]
 - If someone we LOVED was in PRISON and we had the KEYS to set them FREE...
 - Would we HOLD onto the KEYS or would we OPEN the door!
 - We have been given the power of the GOSPEL the KEYS to heaven...
 - Whomever we give the Gospel to we give FREEDOM from SIN and access to HEAVEN
 - Whomever we keep the Gospel from is left BOUND in SIN and kept from HEAVEN...
 - We have the KEYS to heaven do NOT hold them give them to EVERYONE!
- 2^{ND} Why Jesus came... vs. 20-23
 - o 1^{st} The Mystery ... vs. 20
 - Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ!
 - Having addressed the FIRST question [who] Jesus moves onto the SECOND [why]
 - And the FIRST thing He does is tell the disciples NOT to let ANYONE else know...
 - If was OK for people to know WHO He was [Jesus] but not WHY He came [the Christ]!
 - The reason WHY God became a man had been kept a MYSTERY...

- Because if the ENEMY had known he NEVER would have crucified the Lord...
- When Jesus was put on the cross satan rejoiced he thought he had WON...
- What he did NOT understand but learned THREE days later it was his defeat!
- I Corinthians 2:8 "Had they known they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."
- o 2nd The Gospel... vs. 21
 - From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem!
 - And suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes.
 - And be killed and be raised the third day!
 - What satan could NOT know and the world did NOT want to know...
 - Jesus gave to the DISCIPLES the answer to the question WHY!
 - God became a MAN cause the ONLY way to get to heaven is to be PERFECT Matthew 5:48
 - Therefore Jesus came and lived a PERFECT life [never sinned]
 - Then He offered His life because the wages of sin is DEATH Romans 6:23
 - But He would NOT stay dead on the THIRD day [specific] He would rise [indicative] again!
- o 3rd The Enemy... vs. 22-23
 - Rebuked... vs. 22
 - Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him saying:
 - Far be it from You Lord. This shall not happen to You!
 - PETER [hard head] took Jesus aside and ENCOURAGED [rebuke] Him...
 - ENCOURAGE [ἐπιτιμάω] to give HONOR [τιμάω] to someone...
 - Peter assumed Jesus was SCARED of the RELIGIOUS leaders [elders priests scribes]
 - And he assured the Jesus [κύριος] they would NEVER [οὐ μὴ] kill Him!
 - From satan... vs. 23
 - [Jesus] turned and said to Peter: Get behind Me Satan.
 - You are an offense to Me. For you are not mindful of the things of God but the things of men!
 - Jesus rebuked PETER get [imperative] behind me satan [$Σαταν\tilde{α}ς$]
 - This does NOT mean PETER was possessed by satan [unlike Judas] Luke 22:3
 - But because his MIND [φρονέω] was focused on THIS life [men] not ETERNAL life [God]
 - Peter liked the idea of the CHRIST coming to set up a JEWISH kingdom Psalm 2:6
 - But he did NOT like the idea of the CHRIST whose example he followed coming to DIE...
 - It allowed the enemy to INFLUENCE his words making him OFFENSIVE to God!
 - **I Corinthians 1:23** "We preach Christ crucified to the Jews a stumbling block and to the [everyone else] foolishness."
 - We live in a FAST world people do NOT have patience...
 - We love FAST internet FAST food FAST cars FAST credit...
 - The idea of having to WAIT to get what we WANT is offensive!
 - The PROBLEM is the GOSPEL is not about what we can get TODAY [fast]
 - It is a MESSAGE about the FUTURE it is about ETERNAL life...
 - That is why a LOT of people give up on church walk away from Jesus...
 - They ONLY think about THIS life and never stop to consider what happens NEXT!
- 3^{RD} Following Jesus... vs. 24-28
 - o 1st The commands... vs. 24
 - Then Jesus said to His disciples: If anyone desires to come after Me...
 - Let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me!
 - In response to Peter telling Jesus he did NOT need to go to the CROSS...
 - Jesus tell Peter he needs to pick up his own CROSS...
 - Because if the DISCIPLES wanted to FOLLOW Jesus it meant THREE things:
 - DENY [imperative] because they could NOT live for THEMSELVES and for GOD...

- TAKE up [imperative] their cross SECOND mention of the CROSS [σταυρὸν] Matthew 10:38
- FOLLOW [imperative] to walk down the same road Jesus was walked on...
- And since Jesus denied Himself and ended up on the cross so would they Luke 22:42
- Although Jesus is speaking figuratively about submitting to the will of God...
- It was also quite literal in the case of Peter who was CRUCIFIED for his faith!
- Many people look at CHURCH as something they do on Sundays....
- But FOLLOWING Jesus is NOT something we do ONE day a week it is a CONTINUAL choice...
- It means DAILY denying [die to] what we want and choosing to LIVE for God...
- It means we get out of the drivers seat of our life and let Jesus take the wheel!
- o 2nd The Reason... vs. 25-26
 - Lost... vs. 25
 - Whoever desires to save his life will lose it but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it!
 - Those who seek to SAVE [σφζω] life their life will end up DESTROYING [ἀπόλλυμι] it...
 - Those who do NOT want to deny themselves do NOT take up their cross...
 - Those who THINK they can find something better in THIS life LOSE!
 - Ecclesiastes 2:11 "I looked on all the works that my hands had done... and indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind."
 - Looking for HAPPINESS answers to life in this world is chasing the WIND...
 - It is NOT about chasing something that is HARD to catch there is NOTHING there...
 - No one comes to the END of their life wishing they had more MONEY or THINGS...
 - But many will come to the end and realize it was all vanity WORTHLESS....
 - They wasted our life LOST their life chasing after the WIND!
 - Found... vs. 25
 - He who loses his life for My sake will find it!
 - He who GIVES up [ἀπόλλυμι] his life for the sake of Jesus will find TRUE life [ψυχή]!
 - The Apostle Paul was a very GOOD man born a JEW he became a Pharisees...
 - He worked hard to live as GOOD a life as he could until he met Jesus!
 - **Philippians 3:8** "I also count ALL things lost for... Christ Jesus my Lord for whom I have suffered the loss of ALL things and count them as [manure] that I may gain Christ."
 - If we take a SEED and HOLD it in our hand it will NEVER grow...
 - But if we let the SEED go and BURY it it becomes what God intended it to be...
 - We tend to CLING onto our life we want to be in CONTROL...
 - But choosing to put our FAITH in Jesus means LETTING go...
 - All of our HOPES all of our AMBITION all of our DREAMS...
 - The truth is in order to FIND life we must first GIVE it away!
 - **John 12:24-25** "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies it remains alone but if it dies it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."
 - The Example... vs. 26
 - For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?
 - Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?
 - To emphasize the point Jesus gives a comparison...
 - If someone could give up HEAVEN to RULE the whole world would they...
 - SADLY there are some people who might say YES [I can think of a few politicians and actors]
 - But is it WORTH it to get EIGHTY years of bliss on earth for an ETERNITY in hell...
 - And how much of that wealth [all of it] would that same person be willing to PAY...
 - On the day when they stand before the JUDGEMENT seat of Christ...
 - But it is TOO late because they rejected the ONLY payment accepted [blood of Christ]!
 - Around 440 people in the Philippines are considered ULTRA wealthy [P1.5 billion in worth]

- That is only about FOUR out of every MILLION people that are really RICH...
- Meaning a person is about as likely to get hit by lightning as to become ULTRA wealthy...
- Meanwhile the median income [half the Philippines] is just P18k a month or less...
- Yet less than 38% of the people attend church on a regular basis!
- Meaning most people do NOT reject the Gospel so they can get ULTRA wealthy...
- They reject it for around P100 an hour or around P3000 a week...
- For that they walk away from HEAVEN and accept an ETERNITY in hell!
- o 3rd The Reward... vs. 27-28
 - Jesus is coming... vs. 27
 - For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels.
 - And then He will reward each according to his works!
 - The REWARD [or penalty] from Jesus does NOT happen right away...
 - There will come [μέλλω] a day when Jesus will return in GLORY **Revelation 19:16**
 - All of the ANGELS of heaven will come with Him...
 - And THEN He will give [future] the EACH person according to his WORKS [$\pi \rho \tilde{\alpha} \xi \iota \varsigma$]!
 - If people saw Jesus riding out of heaven they might REPENT...
 - But the problem is they do NOT see the coming JUDGMENT...
 - Instead they see the ADVERTISEMENTS telling them this world can make them HAPPY...
 - Therefore they FOOLISHLY chose to live for this life and gamble with their ETERNITY!
 - The proof... vs. 28
 - Assuredly I say to you there are some standing here who shall not taste death...
 - Till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom!
 - AMEN [ἀμήν] there were SOME [only three] of the DISCIPLES...
 - Who would NOT [οὐ μὴ] taste DEATH until they had seen Jesus come in His KINGDOM...
 - Not because they would NOT die but because of what Jesus would show them NEXT...
 - Jesus would take Peter James and John up to the top of Mount Hermon...
 - And there He would be TRANSFORMED seen in all of His GLORY!
 - We may NEVER get to see Jesus in His GLORY this side of heaven...
 - But that does not mean He does NOT give us proof...
 - If we are willing to stop and look we see God moving all around us!