

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!
- o 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 [μέν] - 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 [ἔτερος] - 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 [Ἰησοῦ] - 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 [ἡ ψῆ] – 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...
 - 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 [ὁ υἱοῦ] – Yahweh Shua – is the God who SAVES us!
- o 3rd - 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 [καλέω] out [ἐκ] of the world...

- Contrary to what some denominations teach [first Pope]
- Jesus did NOT build His CHURCH [οικοδομέω] 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 [ᾗδης] 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!

• 2ND - WHY JESUS CAME... vs. 20-23

o 1st - 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 [Σατανᾶς]
 - 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 - **Psalms 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!
- 3RD - 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 [σῶζω] 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 [πραξις]!
 - 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!