



THE GOSPEL OF JESUS WHAT THE SON OF GOD DID

On This Rock I Will Build My Church (Matthew 16:13-18)

Read Matthew 16:13-18.

This morning we talked about three distinct groups of people who have confessions of Jesus. Do you remember what those groups are? If so, discuss them. If you forgot, the groups are:

- those who confess Jesus,
- those who are confused and unclear in their understanding of Jesus, and
- those who reject Jesus.

One of the groups that was described was Americans who are confused and unclear in their understanding of Jesus. They are marked by these five beliefs:

1. The vast majority of Americans believe Jesus was a real person.
2. Younger generations are less likely to believe Jesus was God.
3. Americans are divided on whether Jesus is actually sinless.
4. Americans are conflicted between Jesus and good deeds being the way to Heaven.
5. Most Americans agree that they have made a commitment to Jesus.

Spend a few moments discussing people in your life who might fit into these categories. By their confessions of belief and the life they live, how would you describe them?

In Matthew 16:13-18, Jesus asks two critical questions of the disciples:

1. Who do people say that the Son of Man is?
2. Who do you say that I am?

Both of these questions were asked as Jesus and the disciples were in Caesarea Philippi - an area that had not yet heard the new message of God's Kingdom as revealed by Jesus. In asking these questions, Jesus is getting the disciples to verbalize who *others* in this area believed Him to be, while at the same time getting the disciples to verbalize to Him who *they* believe Him to be.

- Why is it so important to think about our confession of Jesus?
- Specifically, why is it important that we verbalize our confession to others?

Read verses 17 and 18 again. In this passage, Jesus says that He will "build his church" on Peter. We are reminded of two things:

1. Jesus is the builder of the Church, not humans.
2. Simultaneously, Jesus uses people who confess Jesus as Lord in His building of the Church.

Our Corporate Prayer

Father, we pray that you would continue to build the Church throughout this world. We pray that you convict the hearts of people who do not yet know you. As followers of Jesus, use us to build your Church in our world today. We pray that we will be encouraged in our work, stay true to the Gospel, and not tire of doing good! Amen.