



1. Jesus' Question to the Disciples

"Now when Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, 'Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?'" Matthew 16:13 NKJV

"He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'" Matthew 16:15 NKJV

The answer to this question defines your life, your calling, and your eternity. Who do you say Jesus is? Your answer determines everything about your life.

2. Peter's Confession

"Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'" Matthew 16:16 NKJV

- Jesus says it is revealed by the Father, not by flesh and blood.
- Simon the wimp becomes Peter, the rock.

Peter could have said a lot of things, but he knew. He said, 'You're the one that came to seek and save that which was lost.'

3. Jesus' Promise: Building His Church

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18 NKJV

- The church belongs to Jesus Christ, not the rich, powerful, or long-time members.
- The church is unstoppable; the gates of hell cannot prevail against it.

It doesn't matter if it's depression, addiction, confusion, or hopelessness behind those doors. When the church goes, those doors will not stop us from rescuing the captives.

4. Lessons from Caesarea Philippi

Historical site: a place of pagan worship, sacrifice, and darkness.

Jesus asked this life-defining question there, showing that God's church rises in the midst of opposition. Jesus took His disciples to hell on earth in the first century and said, 'I will build My church. Nothing will prevail against it.'

5. Application

- **Know Jesus Personally:** Your answer to "Who is Jesus?" shapes your legacy and eternity.
- **Confess Boldly:** Speak your faith with clarity like Peter.
- **Participate in the Church:** Be part of the unstoppable work of Christ.
- **Face Darkness with Faith:** The gates of hell cannot overcome God's plan.
- **Serve with Obedience:** Even small acts, like discipleship or street evangelism, grow God's kingdom.