

“Who Is Jesus?” Matthew 16:13-20

Intro: *Who is Jesus? Why was he here 2,000 years ago?*

- I. Jesus asks his disciples what others are saying about him
 - a. John the Baptist (cf. Mt 14:1-2)
 - b. Elijah (cf. Mal 4:5-6; 2 Kings 2:9-12)
 - c. Jeremiah, another prophet (cf. Dt 18:18; Apocrypha)
- II. Jesus asks the disciples who *they* say he is
 - a. “You are the Messiah” (Ps 2:2)
 - b. “the Son of the living God” (Mt 14:33)
- III. Jesus’ beatitude: *Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah*
 - a. Revealed by the heavenly Father
 - b. Knowing Jesus is a gift: given, revealed
- IV. “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church”
 - a. *Petros* means “rock”
 - b. “church” means *an assembly gathered for a purpose*
 - c. “gates of Hades” = “powers of death” (cf. Is 38:10)
- V. The keys of the kingdom
 - a. Authority to “bind” and “loose”
 - b. Keys can open and they can lock
- VI. Then Jesus ordered them *not* to tell anyone who he was!
 - a. They knew *who* he was but not his *true mission*
 - b. What was their understanding of the Messiah?

Close: Our own identity is bound up with who we claim Jesus to be and what we believe his mission was (Romans 10:9). Next week we will look at why the disciples were not yet ready to tell people who Jesus was (Matthew 16:21-28).