

## Declared by Peter

### **God's Word:**

Matthew 16:13-27

### **Key Verse:**

*"Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"*

-Matthew 16:16



### **Breaking It Down:**

While traveling through the territories of the Jews, preaching and healing, Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They answered, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." Jesus then asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" I can only imagine the silence that followed that question, because maybe they weren't really sure who He was. We thank God that He didn't leave the disciples in ignorance about the truth of who He was.



Peter stood up and acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah. This goes to show you what kind of man Peter was. He was an outgoing and extroverted man who didn't hold much back. But, besides these characteristics, he provided exactly what this unit is talking about: a testimony to Jesus as Messiah. He was not ashamed or scared to testify to who Jesus was. None of the other disciples who walked, ate and spent time with Jesus even tried to guess who He was. I don't think they lacked an opinion of who He was, but maybe they didn't want to give a wrong answer. Jesus acknowledged Peter's response as

being something he had not come to realize on his own. This was a revelation given to him by God the Father. Jesus said: “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:44)

Right after Peter confesses who Jesus is, Jesus proclaims blessings upon him. Jesus proclaims that His church will be built upon this declaration of Himself being the Messiah, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. Jesus assured that victory belonged to His church, which is made up of all his followers. He also said the keys to the kingdom of heaven would be given to Peter.

“The idea is not that Peter will admit people to heaven, but that Peter opened the door of the kingdom to both the Jews (Acts 2:38-39) and the Gentiles. (Acts 10:34-44)”<sup>a</sup> He was also given binding authority. “Jesus promises that Peter - and the other apostles - would be able to set the boundaries authoritatively for the New Covenant community. This was the authority given to the *apostles and prophets* to build a *foundation*” spoken about at Ephesians 2:20.<sup>a</sup>

Jesus, being the Messiah, is the founder of the church, and He gave Peter and the apostles many privileges. This is of great importance for us as believers, and for those who are yet to believe in Jesus, our Messiah.



### **Living It:**

When Jesus asks His disciples who the people thought He was, they gave Him many different responses. In people’s eyes today Jesus is portrayed in many different ways including healer, Savior, friend, redeemer, etc. But people also make up many different things about Jesus, making Him out to be somebody He is not. People have been known to say that Jesus was a blasphemer, that He wasn’t the Messiah, and that He never really died on the cross but instead hid out and led a normal life. People also claim Jesus was a myth, a teacher, or just the highest prophet.



What is your view of who Jesus is? What role does He play in your life? Does He even have a role in your life? Answering these questions will help you see whether you are living life according to Messiah’s desire, or if you are just living for yourself.

There is great importance in what we believe about Jesus, for this will determine so much in our lives both here on earth and in the afterlife. “There is salvation in **no one else!** There is **no other name** in all of heaven for people to call on to save them.” Acts 4:12 (NLT)

For those who say Jesus never claimed to be Messiah, here you go!!! “Jesus made no reply. Then **the high priest asked Him, ‘Are you the Messiah,** the Son of the blessed God?’ **Jesus said, ‘I am,** and you will see me, the Son of Man, sitting at God’s right hand in the place of power and coming back on the clouds of heaven.” (NLT, Mark 14:61-62)

The importance of this lesson is not for me to prove that Jesus was the Messiah, for I believe He has done a great job Himself. My desire is for all of you to meditate and decide who Jesus will be in your life today and always.



**Questions:**

1. Why does Jesus tell Peter that he was being a stumbling block to him? Who or what is being a stumbling block in your spiritual life?
2. Peter’s confession to Jesus Christ was a very bold and faithful one. Have you ever made a confession like this?
3. If somebody identifies Jesus incorrectly, would you stand up to him or her and proclaim who Jesus truly is?



**Do It!**

Jesus is....

O	Q	C	B	H	K	C	M	I	Z	R	K
W	F	G	N	O	R	E	H	C	A	E	T
I	I	S	F	L	R	L	A	R	L	Q	V
O	Z	H	Z	Y	H	Q	C	Z	I	C	Z
T	R	E	M	E	E	D	E	R	I	S	C
T	A	P	Q	T	G	A	L	P	H	A	T
S	O	H	F	C	S	A	V	I	O	R	G
E	W	E	Y	R	M	E	S	S	I	A	H
I	H	R	H	M	I	G	V	L	D	C	S
R	G	D	J	J	K	E	S	E	O	J	J
P	T	Q	E	Q	O	H	N	Y	G	R	P
A	G	E	M	O	Q	A	D	D	M	L	D

alpha  
Christ  
friend  
holy  
lord  
Messiah

omega  
priest  
redeemer  
savior  
shepherd  
teacher

<sup>a</sup> David Guzik, commentary on Matthew chapter 16 in [blueletterbible.com](http://blueletterbible.com)