



The Place Reveals the Person

Matthew 5:17-20

*"When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi,
he asked... 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?'
They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah;
and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'
'But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?'
Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah,
the Son of the living God.'"*

Matthew 16:13-16

The Popular Perceptions

1. _____ (Matthew 14:1-2)
2. _____ (Malachi 4:5-6)
3. _____ or one of the other prophets
(John 6:14; Matthew 7:29 & Deuteronomy 18:15-22)

Jesus was especially concerned that his disciples knew who he was. The answer determines where we stand in our belief.

Why did Jesus ask this in Caesarea Philippi?

1. Emperor Worship – Temple of _____
 - If Jesus is Lord then Caesar is not.
2. Court of _____ and the nymphs
 - Yearly descent into Hades
 - Temple of the Sacred Goat
3. Temple of _____ and court of Nemesis
4. Herod Philippi's Palace

Two Rocks:

- The Church on the *petros*
- The Grotto on the *petra*

On this *rock* I will build my church:

- _____ himself
- _____ of faith in Jesus
- Ankles of _____

Is Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, your foundation?
Will you follow Jesus for who he is?

Jesus: The Place Reveals the Person

Matthew 16:13-20

Questions from Sermon on March 15, 2026

Getting to Know Me

1. What is one of your favorite destinations, and what makes it so special to you?
2. What new insight, question or encouragement came up for you from Sunday's sermon?

Digging Deeper

3. Read Matthew 16:13–20 together. What words or moments in this passage stand out to you the most? Why?
4. Jesus asks two questions: *"Who do people say the Son of Man is?"* and *"Who do you say that I am?"* Why do you think Jesus cared about both of these questions?
5. The disciples report various ideas about who Jesus might be. What are some modern popular perceptions of Jesus today (teacher, moral guide, revolutionary, spiritual leader, etc.)? How are those similar to the opinions in this passage?
6. In Jesus' day and in our own, there are plenty of ideas about who Jesus is, but Jesus wants his disciples back then and us today to know who he truly is. Why is it important that we get Jesus' identity right? And what does this conversation reveal about Jesus' true identity?
7. Caesarea Philippi was filled with symbols of power and worship: temples to Augustus, Pan, Zeus, and the palace of Herod. Why do you think Jesus chose that specific place to clarify his identity?

8. The area also included the grotto associated with the *"gates of Hades."* How does that setting deepen the meaning of Jesus saying that the gates of Hades will not overcome his church? And why is this especially meaningful for us today?
9. Peter declares, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."* Break this down: What does each word of that statement reveal about who Jesus truly is?
10. Jesus says, *"On this rock I will build my church."* The sermon described several ways this has been understood (Peter, Peter's confession, the rock imagery of the region). What do these ideas together teach us about the foundation of the church and our confidence in God's work through his church?

Making It Personal

11. Jesus eventually asks every disciple the same question: *"Who do you say that I am?"* How would you answer that today?
12. What does it practically look like in daily life to build your life on the truth that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God?
13. What would it look like for you this week to follow Jesus for who he truly is, not just who people say he is?

Prayer

Take a few moments to share any personal updates or prayer requests before taking each of these requests to God in prayer.

We exist to glorify God by guiding people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.



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