

WHAT JESUS SAID – THEN AND NOW

The Source

TEXT: Mt. 5:13-16

INTRODUCTION: Ever had a day when you just were not yourself. For some that is bad. For some that is good.

Peter is the focal disciple in our text today. But Peter is not Peter today. He does not act like Peter; he does not talk like Peter. On this day, when the question is asked by the Teacher, Peter is in silent contemplation while others guess at the answer. On this day, far from the impetuous fisherman, blurting out the first thought that rambled from his mind, he is the contemplative disciple who speaks with care and power. So much so that his words have been called “The Great Confession.”

Read with me.

Mt. 16:13-19 ¹³When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

¹⁴ So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

But our focus today will not be on Peter, it will be on Christ; not on the confessor but upon the One Confessed; not upon the recipient but upon the Source.

For in this profound passage of Scripture, we see the Lord Jesus Christ as the Source for five things.

I. THE LORD IS THE SOURCE OF FAITH.

A. Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

B. He did not get this from himself or others.

C. God the Father revealed it to Peter.

D. God still gives faith to all who believe.

1. Our faith is a gift from God. Eph. 2:8-9 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,* 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.
2. Only those drawn by the Father come to Jesus. John 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.
3. What is our part?
4. Use the faith God gives. Believe; confess. Rom. 10:9-10 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

II. CHRIST IS THE SOURCE OF THE CHURCH.

A. Upon the “great big rock” of Jesus Christ, the church is built.

B. Christ is the cornerstone of the church.

1 Peter 2:6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture,
“Behold, I lay in Zion
A chief cornerstone, elect, precious,
And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”

C. Jesus said, “I will build my church...”

D. The church will not ultimately fail because Christ will not fail.

III. JESUS IS THE SOURCE FOR THE BELIEVER.

A. Peter was a “little rock.”

B. Believers are little living stones being built into a spiritual house. 1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

C. When we believe, the life of the cornerstone is shared with the little living stones. Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

IV. CHRIST IS THE SOURCE FOR SUCCESS.

A. “...the gates of hell will not prevail...”

B. The spiritual war is against the powers of darkness. Eph. 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

C. The spiritual war is for the lives and souls of men.

V. THE LORD IS THE SOURCE OF THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM.

A. Jesus gives the keys to the kingdom.

B. The keys eternally bind and loose.

C. The “keys of the kingdom” is the gospel.

CONCLUSION: My friend, Jesus Christ is the Source. He transformed Peter from a loose lipped fisherman to a steadfast preacher of the gospel. He changed John from the son of thunder to John the beloved apostle. Since then, this same Jesus has been the source of forgiveness and eternal life to millions of people who have used the faith God gave to them to believe and trust in Christ. He can be that to you today and forever more.