

THE CHRIST-CENTERED LIFE

Living the Great Confession

Matthew 16:13-27

INTRODUCTION: Last week we looked at the meaning and implications of Peter's great confession, when the Lord asked the disciples,

Matthew 16:15-19 NKJV ... "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

You are the promised Messiah, Deity who has come in the flesh!

- 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.

No one figures this out on their own. It must be revealed. God desires to reveal Himself to men and women that they may know and trust Him.

- He does this by revealing His power and majesty through creation.
- He reveals His character, purposes, commandments, and promises in His Word, the Holy Scriptures.
- 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter (the stone), and on this rock (the bedrock) I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

And we saw last week that Jesus was pointing to Himself as the One upon whom His church is founded. And we read where Peter himself confirmed that Jesus is the cornerstone, the bedrock, the foundation of the church.

And that is the reason the church shall be sustained and even successful in battling the forces of darkness, not because of any of us, but because of Jesus, the cornerstone and head of the church!

- 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."

And we saw that Jesus was giving us disciples the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven which is the gospel. And by the sharing of the gospel, we can unlock Heaven's gates for those who will believe and trust in Christ.

We recently had three men of our church go to the little town of São Bento, Paraíba, Brasil

- To share God's revelation of Himself through the Bible with people there so that they can come to know God personally and live with Him forever.
- They went doing the work of the church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and got to see how the Lord enables the church to assault the very gates of hell and win.
- And to everyone they talked to, they shared the gospel. Those who were willing to believe and put their trust in Jesus as their Lord and Savior saw Heaven's Gates unlocked before them, and they became a child of God, saved for eternity.

They were living the Great Confession! That is what the Lord wants each of us to do.

Also, this past weekend our F.A.I.T.H. Riders shared the gospel 279 times and 24 prayed to receive Christ at Thunder Beach!

Acts 1:8 NKJV But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Next year we are prayerfully hoping to ramp up our short-term mission trips again. I hope you will begin now

- To pray about going on one of these missions.
- To begin to save money to be able to go.
- For the Lord to lead you in selecting the one He knows is right for you.
- To begin here in Jerusalem to be on mission in one of our Center of Hope Mission Ministries or other mission projects our church will have.