



The Oaks Baptist Church

Grand Prairie, Texas

◆
Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon
Jose Cisneros

Class Leaders:

Director: Ron Harris
Inreach: Pat Hester
Secretary: Mary Clark
Deacon: C M Hester

Jesus Christ the Fulfillment

A Study in Matthew

Date	Lesson	Text
12/04	Lineage of Jesus	1:1-17; Ruth 4:13-17
12/11	Emmanuel's Birth	1:18-25
12/18	Confirming His Birth	2:7-23
01/08	Special Lesson	Bro. Cisneros
01/15	Strength in Temptation	4:1-11
01/22	Acts of Healing	9:27-34; 11:2-6
01/29	Declared in Prayer Pt1	11:25-30
02/05	Declared in Prayer Pt2	11:25-30
02/12	Revealed in Rejection	13:54-58
02/19	Canaanite Woman	15:21-28
02/26	Declared by Peter	16:13-27
03/04	Witnessed by Disciples	17:1-12
03/11	Anointed in Bethany	26-6-13
03/18	Review and Summary	

Food for Thought

The Real Jesus

All glory to Jesus, begotten of God,
The great I AM is He; Creator,
sustainer—but wonder of all,
The Lamb of Calvary! To know
Jesus is to know God.

*Simon Peter answered,
"You are the Christ,
the Son of the living God."
(Matt 16:16 NJKV)*

(From "Our Daily Bread", Aug 31, 2003)

Declared by Peter

Matt 16:13-27

Throughout Jesus' time on earth, a question kept coming up about Him: Who is this? The disciples even wondered when they were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was taking a nap when a sudden storm arose. They panicked and woke Him up, crying out that they were about to die. Jesus woke up, asked them why they were so afraid, and calmly rebuked the wind and sea into quietness. The disciples wondered, "What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!" (Matt. 8:27). **From prison John the Baptist sent messengers with the question "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?" (Matt. 11:3).** As Jesus performed miracles, questions repeatedly arose about His identity. Who was this man? All over Israel there was discussion about Him, and now the time had come for Jesus to elicit from His disciples what they believed in regard to this question. It is also the one question every living person must answer, because each one's eternal destiny rests on that answer. Our text is generally about Jesus and His disciples, but specifically it is more about Jesus and Peter. **In the first part, Peter spoke words given to him by the Lord, and he was commended by Jesus. In the latter part, Peter spoke words given to him by Satan and was rebuked by Jesus. This disparity is not only interesting but also confusing, for it causes us to wonder how to control the way the pendulum swings.** The text is even more specific as it focuses on Jesus Himself. He explained how He serves as the foundation for the church because He is the Son of the living God and because He suffered and died to save mankind" and will one day return to claim believers.

(From the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)

What does it take to know another person truly? We may be introduced to someone and right away learn something about that person's work, home, or family. We might then draw conclusions about that person's character, based on what we associate with a particular profession, place, or family situation. But with time, we learn more about that person and are driven to other conclusions. People can defy our "first impression" expectations. Today's lesson concerns what Peter knew about Jesus. **By declaring Jesus to be the Christ, the Son of the living God, Peter declared what Christians ever since have affirmed as the central tenet of their faith.** But by itself, Peter's confession is not sufficient to tell us who Jesus is. He is indeed the Christ, but we also must know the kind of Christ he is. We need to know that he willingly went to the cross for the sake of sinners. Jesus defied Peter's expectations. Perhaps we will need to revise our expectations of Jesus too. In many ways, today's passage is the tipping point in the story of Jesus. It confronts us with the central question: **Who is this Jesus? Like Peter, we must take a stand on that question.** It challenges us to trust Jesus enough to believe what he says about his death and resurrection and even to follow him on the same path. Believing in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, is the essence of the Christian life. Such belief is more than mere intellectual assent. **It means that we are ready to give up seeking our own pleasure and prosperity. It means that we give our time, energy, and resources—our very lives—to serving others.** The Jesus we confess as Christ is the Jesus of the cross. When we follow him, we go where he goes: to give ourselves and thereby to receive our lives back again.

(From the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

IDENTIFICATION OF THE CHRIST (MATT 16:13-17)

Identification according to worldly understanding (13-14)

- Worldly understanding thinks the things of God are foolishness (1 Cor 2:14)
- Worldly understanding seeks answers through human ideas (Acts 17:16-21)
- Worldly understanding uses human wisdom, which God frustrates and destroys (1 Cor 1:16-21)
- Worldly understanding is being veiled by Satan (2 Cor 4:3-4)

Identification according to God's revelation (15-17)

- God reveals through teaching those who listen to Him (John 6:45)
- God reveals through the words and teachings of Jesus (John 17:6-8)
- God reveals through His Holy Spirit (Eph 1:17-18)
- God reveals through understanding given by Jesus (1 John 5:20)

PROCLAMATION BY THE CHRIST (MATT 16:18-20)

Stability and power of the Church (18)

- The Church has stability because Jesus is the chief rock or cornerstone (Eph 2:19-20)
- The Church has stability because it is made up of God's field of working members (1 Cor 3:9)
- The Church has the power to reveal God's manifold wisdom (Eph 3:10-11)
- The Church has power because Jesus is its head (Col 1:16-18)

The keys of empowerment of the Church (19-20)

- The Church is empowered because its Head (Jesus) has the keys of death and Hades (Rev 1:18)
- The Church is empowered because its Head can shut things that no one can open (Rev 3:7)
- The Church is empowered because when it is assembled, the power of Jesus is present (1 Cor 5:4)

MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE CHRIST (MATT 16:21-23)

Misunderstanding about Jesus' suffering (21)

- Jesus suffered because it was written in Scriptures (Mark 9:12)
- Jesus suffered death for everyone (Heb 2:9)
- Jesus suffered to be a sympathetic help (Heb 2:18)
- Jesus suffered to teach obedience (Heb 5:8)
- Jesus suffered to leave us an example (1 Peter 2:21)

Misunderstanding about Jesus death and resurrection (21)

- Misunderstanding about Jesus being the Son of God (Mark 15:39)
- Misunderstanding about Jesus' resurrection (Luke 24:45-47)
- Misunderstanding even though there were many witnesses (Acts 10:39-40)
- Misunderstanding about the Scriptures that foretold Jesus' death and resurrection (1 Cor 15:3-4)

Misunderstanding about the things of God (22-23)

- About the indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Cor 2:10-12)
- About the inner strength by faith (Eph 3:16-19)
- About being established in faith (Col 1:22-23)
- About being established in the truth (2 Peter 1:12)

CHALLENGE FROM THE CHRIST (MATT 16:24-27)

Deny self (24-25)

- Deny self by living according to the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:13)
- Deny self by considering everything a loss except for knowing God (Phil 3:8)
- Deny self by not offering self to wickedness (Rom 6:12-14)
- Deny self because God has chosen us to be holy and blameless (Eph 1:4-7)
- Deny self through the provision of God's Divine power (2 Peter 1:3-4)

Be prepared for the second coming of Jesus (26-27)

- Prepared for the Second Coming because no one knows when Jesus will return (Mark 13:32-33)
- Prepared for the Second Coming because the end time is nearer than we think (Rom 13:11-12)
- Prepared for the Second Coming because the day of the Lord is coming (2 Peter 3:11-13)
- Prepared for the Second Coming by knowing the reason for the hope of faith (1 Peter 3:15)
- Prepared for the Second Coming by doing what the Master assigned (Matt 24:45-48)