

## Thursday, July 27

Read Matthew 16:13-20. Jesus seems joyful at Peter's profession. He responds, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! . . . And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it." The message pointed out that Jesus is utilizing a word play in congratulating Peter for professing the deep truth that Jesus is the Messiah – the son of the living God. Peter honors Jesus and Jesus returns the honor by calling Peter the rock upon which He will build His church.

To be called a rock is to be compared to Abraham and to God himself! Peter's faith enabled him to do great things for God's Kingdom on earth. This is an incredible claim given the rest of Peter's story – his fading loyalty and denial of Jesus during Jesus' last hours alive on earth. It is a grace-filled realization that we don't have to be perfect to be blessed by Christ and exalted within His church – we have to be willing to step up and step up in faith. Blessings to God who enable extraordinary things to occur from the ministry of ordinary people – like Peter – like you and me.

## Friday, July 28

Read Matthew 16:13-20 and Romans 12:1-8. Read also I Peter 2:1-10. The great and wonderful part of this high praise Jesus places upon Peter – Peter shares with each of us! Notice that it is Jesus who builds the church — Peter is simply the foundation. Jesus continues to have an active role in constructing the Christian community as a spiritual house, and there will be many "living stones" added to this building over the generations. We are those stones!

We have a place and a purpose in God's kingdom work – a place and a task in God's church! The Romans passage reminds us that we are a critical part of the living body of Christ in the world today. We are the church, powerful with a purpose and a direction, strengthen and guided by Christ. When we praise Jesus as the Messiah the Christ – He returns the praise saying, "You are the rock! Praise God for this gift of grace and guidance!

## Message Notes – July 23, 2023

### The Twelve – Simon Peter the Real Rock \*

- I. When Andrew introduced Peter to Jesus, Jesus "looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated \_\_\_\_\_)." (John 1:42)
  - A. The word *Peter* in Greek is *petros*, which means "a piece of rock; a stone; a single stone; \_\_\_\_\_, insecure, shifting, or \_\_\_\_\_."
  - B. The word *rock* is *petra*, which means "a rock; a cliff; a projecting rock; mother rock; huge mass; \_\_\_\_\_ formation; fixed; \_\_\_\_\_; enduring."
  - C. Out of all The Twelve, Peter is the one who we know the most about perhaps because of his \_\_\_\_\_ nature.
  - D. Perhaps the greatest exchange between Jesus and Peter was has been title his "\_\_\_\_\_."
- II. It is important to understand the dramatic setting in which Jesus asked the question, "Who do \_\_\_\_\_ say that the Son of Man is?"
  - A. The disciples answer, "Some say John the Baptist, others \_\_\_\_\_, or Jeremiah or another prophet."
  - B. Jesus gets more to the point, "But who do \_\_\_\_\_ say that I am?"
  - C. It's the singular voice of Simon Peter who answered, "You are the \_\_\_\_\_, the Son of the living God."
  - D. There are two great \_\_\_\_\_ about this profession of Peter.
    1. First, no human category is adequate in describing \_\_\_\_\_.

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\*Matthew 16:13-20 and Romans 12:1-8

2. Second, our profession of Jesus the Christ is a \_\_\_\_\_ event in our lives.

- III. Jesus seems \_\_\_\_\_ at Peter's profession.
- A. Jesus responds, "I tell you, you are Peter, and on this \_\_\_\_\_ I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it."
  - B. To call someone a rock is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. The great and wonderful part of this high praise that Jesus places upon Peter – Peter \_\_\_\_\_ with each of us!
  - D. Peter wrote, "Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a \_\_\_\_\_ house. (I Peter 2:5)
  - E. Tradition holds that Peter live to an old age and spent his final years in \_\_\_\_\_ where he was martyred.
  - F. Peter is supposedly the first \_\_\_\_\_.
  - G. What transformation have you experienced as a \_\_\_\_\_ stone, part of the church built on that foundation?

## ***Daily Meditations and Study Guide***

The following is a daily meditation and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

### **Monday, July 24**

Read Matthew 16:13-20. What are your immediate thoughts – your immediate answer – when you hear the question: Who is Jesus? The message was about Jesus' identity, and how Peter responded. How would you answer that question? Honestly think about your answer and write your thoughts here. Pray for insight this week as we consider the Biblical answer to this central question of our Christian faith.

### **Tuesday, July 25**

Read Matthew 16:13-20. When Jesus first asked, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" The disciples answered, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, or Jeremiah or another prophet." You can recognize what's happening here – the disciples are providing neat little boxes in which to place Jesus. Certainly, Jesus was a prophet, a teacher and a healer as witnessed in the New Testament. But Jesus was much more than that – Jesus was and is the Son of God!

We know Peter's profession to be central to our faith, however we tend to do exactly what the people of Jesus' day did – we put Jesus into little boxes that which, in turn, make us comfortable with Jesus. We proclaim that Jesus loved everyone and we gloss over the fact that Jesus brought a word of judgment also. Our faith stalls a little after the birth of Jesus and we cherish the nativity of Christmas but never quite embrace the cross of Easter. What box or boxes do you place Jesus? What view of our Lord and Savior makes Him most comfortable for you? Meditate upon these questions and ask that God expand the boxes you've constructed around our uncontainable Jesus the Christ!

### **Wednesday, July 26**

Read Matthew 16:13-20. When Jesus asked more specifically, "But who do you say that I am?" it's the singular voice of Simon Peter who answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." It is an awesome responsibility when one professes his or her faith in the highest yet most concrete terms. Messiah (and its Greek counterpart, Christ) means "the Anointed One." This means that Jesus was sent by God to be the ruler of the earth. It means that Jesus is God's messenger and conveyer of divine love and guidance.

How is Jesus your Messiah? Your ruler? What name do you have for Jesus that confers the greatest responsibility? Pray that God will reveal that responsibility to you as you honor Jesus by naming him your Messiah – your Christ.