



**CRITICAL
QUESTIONS!**

Matthew 16:13

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

Caesarea Philippi

- Mostly Gentile area – Jesus could teach his disciples relatively undisturbed
- Built on a rock face with worship sites to various Gods
 - a) 14 temples to Baal (a Syrian god)
 - b) Worship site of the Greek god Pan (god of nature and fertility)
 - c) Temple Built for Caesar worship
- Not a place any good Jew would go.

CRITICAL
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Matthew 16:13-14

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Who the crowds thought Jesus was

1. John the Baptist – a prophet raised from the dead (forerunner of the Messiah)
2. Elijah – a great prophet (forerunner of Messiah)
3. Jeremiah – a prophet (forerunner of Messiah)

Even the highest human category is inadequate for Jesus

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Matthew 16:15-17

¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

Who Do You Say I am?

1. The discovery of who Jesus is a personal one. We all have to decide who we believe Jesus to be.
2. It is only through God's working in us that we recognize Jesus for who he really is.

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Matthew 16:18-20

¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah?

Building of the Church

1. Peter's belief in Jesus as the Messiah is the beginning and foundation of the church. He is the first stone in the building of the church.
2. Death would not have victory over Jesus and his church

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What does this mean for me?

1. You need to wrestle with and decide for yourself who you believe Jesus is.
2. If you believe Jesus is the Son of God, the saviour of the world then you are a part of the church Jesus is building.
3. How might God want to use you in the continued building of the church.

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