

CHRIST REVEALED: A Call to Discipleship

Text: *Matthew 16:13-27*

A bit of background...

Jesus has chosen a Gentile region for the first confession of His identity. The influence of the Greek and Roman culture were strong and heathen temples and idols were everywhere. Many people believed that Jesus was just a great prophet.

13 ... He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

The disciples answered Jesus’ question with the common view – that Jesus was one of the great prophets.

It was important for Jesus to know and hear from His very own disciples what their personal perception and understanding of who He was to them.

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 “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for **flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.***

Contrary to what most of the people believed about Jesus, Peter received a **PERSONAL REVELATION** directly from God the Father.

God took something from His heart and mind and revealed it to Peter in a very personal way.

We have an awesome privilege to receive from God what He wants to say and reveal from His heart.

It is important for us to have a personal revelation of who Jesus is in our lives.

Why is it important to have a personal revelation of who Jesus is?

3 Significant Truths about Personal Revelation

1. Personal revelation is foundational

Jesus said, *“Upon this rock I will build my church...”*

The rock is God’s revelation to Peter on which the church will be established and built.

1 Cor. 3:11 – *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

2. Personal revelation empowers us to walk in victory

18 ...and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

The **Gates of Hades** was a common ancient expression for the **realm of the dead**.

Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, the greatest revelation of God to humanity, conquered death when He rose from the grave.

1 Cor. 15:55-58 AMP

O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?... thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is done and it is finished, and victory is ours for the taking!!!

3. Personal revelation is the key to access and experience God's Kingdom on Earth

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.”

Personal revelations are keys of the kingdom of heaven. The keys symbolise the power to open and close doors. They allow us to enter into and experience what God has in store for us.

For whoever has (spiritual “revealed” knowledge), to him will be given more and he will be furnished richly so that he will have in abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

The tactical plan of the enemy to bring to nothing Jesus' personal revelation is to put an **OFFENSE** in front of us.

Luke 17:1 – Jesus said to His disciples, “Offenses will certainly come...”

Matt. 11:6 – “Blessed is he who is not offended because of me.”

What do we do when offense comes?

When offense comes, you have to place it exactly where it belongs – **BEHIND US** and **NOT IN FRONT OF US!**

Jesus gave us the antidote to offense, **to take up our cross and keep following Him** (a call to discipleship).

What is our passion and desire in life?

²⁴ If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.

We must be willing to deny ourselves of our own wants, desires and preferences like Jesus.

The cross is a sign of God's incredible love to humanity. This is God's love that extends to everyone, even to the unlovable.

What is our purpose in life?

²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Death to self is required if we desire to follow Him. To be effective followers of Christ, we need to desire (be proactive and intentional) to follow Him daily and relentlessly.

What is our pursuit in life?

²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

There is nothing in this world that is more important than our soul.

“Consider how precious a soul must be when both God and the devil are after it?” Charles Spurgeon

Jesus is more concerned about the condition of our heart and destiny of our soul.

What is our present (reward)?

When Jesus becomes the passion, the purpose and the pursuit of our life, we will be rewarded.

²⁷ *For the Son of Man will come, and He will reward each according to his works.*

Knowing about Him is different from knowing Him.

Questions to ponder this week

- Who is Jesus Christ to you?
- What are those foundational truths that God has already revealed to you?
- What things tend to compete for your allegiance to Christ?
- What would it mean for you to "deny" yourself?
- What would help you take the next step in desiring to follow Christ?