

Matthew 16:13-23
The King's Big Question
(The King and His Kingdom)

What are you known for?

A) He is known as **Jaws**- Joey Chestnut from San Jose Calif. Joey is a professional eater (**didn't know existed**)

B) Last week he set the record for eating 72 hotdogs including the buns in 10min- Won \$10 grand. **Pic**

1) Net worth of \$800K – Professional eater – **(Weird world)**

C) Ever heard of Sammy Griner? – No one had – until 2007 when his mom posted this pic of him.

1) Pic went Viral – he became Known as the **"I hate sandcastles kid"**

D) Later because of his fame – He was called the **"Success Kid"**

1) Used his internet fame to help raise \$100K for his dad's kidney transplant operation. **Pic of him today Parents**

E) Jaws – Success Kid – What are you known for?

If I were to ask your family/wife/ kids/ friends – co-workers to describe you in one sentence-

A) One phrase What would they say? –

B) What would be the description they would use for you? - **What nickname give you?**

1) Homework assignment **for lunch today**

Here in Matt 16 Jesus gets away with his disciples – he asked them two very important questions

A) The 2nd question is the most important of all.

B) This is the most important question ever asked any man. **The door to eternity swings upon it:**

C) Everyone of us needs to be able to answer this question

1) Our answer to this question should not be merely intellectual – but it needs to be personal.

D) Your answer to this question should really shape the way that you live!

3 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

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 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.

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 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."

20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

Setting: We have seen in our study of Matthew where Jesus In Matthew 15 Jesus tries to get away with his disciples by crossing the sea of Galilee

A) Crowd follows – he feeds the 5,000

B) Still wanting to get away:

➤ This time Jesus heads about 30 miles northeast of Galilee

C) He takes them away, **away from the crowd**, away from the leaders, away from the detractors; **It's private time**

HE TAKES THEM TO Caesarea Philippi

A) Caesarea Philippi was important to the Jews because it was the headwaters of the Jordan River **or their artery, their life source.**

B) The Jordan river was called the Living water – the living water for the land began there.

C) Caesarea Philippi was important not only to the Jews but also to pagans.

1) There were no less than 14 pagan temples there.

D)The Most popular was a Marble temple that Herod the great had built there in honor of Augustus Caesar.

1)**The Marble glistened in the Sunshine.**

But Caesarea Philippi first gained prominence in 330 BC when Alexander the great – set up a shrine there to the Fertility god – PAN

A)The god PAN was believed to be half man and half goat. .

B)You know about Pan from your history and mythology.

C) **He had little horns and he played the flute.**

- The Pan flute comes from the god Pan.

D)CARVINGS OF PAN in the Rocks at the Springs there in Caesarea Philippi

Women who were referred to as goat dancers would dance the dance of the fertility god pan.

A)They would dance very erotic and sexually suggestive.

B)So this place had that type of reputation, being a very sensual and erotic place where immoral practices took place.

C) So Caesarea Philippi was known in Jesus' time as an **Eerie and Evil Place**

THE Cave:

A)The large river of water from the Jordan flowed from this cave.

B)People believed that the fertility gods went and disappeared into that cave into the underworld or hades – Hell.

C)So the ancients referred to it as the gates of Hell.

Now I tell you all of that because this is the place that Jesus purposely took his disciples to this place – to serve as the backdrop for his questions.

A)Question #1 who do men say that I am?

B)John the Baptist: Why would they think that?- he was **DEAD**

➤ Herod Antipas who killed John the Baptist – Heard of Jesus' miracles – thought John had come back to life to haunt him

➤ **John was a bold guy** – said it like it was – **Brood of vipers – bunch of snakes – who warned you to flee the wrath to come.**

➤ **Jesus also was bold** in talking to the religious leaders – He wasn't afraid to offend them.

C) So They thought, "Boy, that guy reminds us a lot of John the Baptist" and the way he unloaded on some of the religious leaders.

2 on the list, Elijah.

A)Why would anybody think Jesus was a prophet who's been dead 900 years?

B)The Prophet **Malachi prophesied Elijah would appear before the Messiah came.**

1) Since They didn't think JESUS was the Messiah. -
2) Some thought he's the forerunner of the Messiah, Elijah the prophet.

C)Elijah was mighty in Miracles – So was Jesus!!

#3 on the list, and others say you are Jeremiah.

A)JEREMIAH WEEPING PROPHET -
Lamentations

B)Jesus came to the place where his friend Lazarus was buried – **JESUS WEPT** - convulsed
1)People saw that and said: See how he loved him.

C)Jesus became known as a man of sorrows acquainted with grief.
1)He had a heart – His heart broken for people

D)He would later weep over the city of Jerusalem.... Oh Jerusalem

Now to compare Jesus to any of these three men was a compliment

A)Each one was respected in his own way.

B)AND People today have their own descriptions about Jesus

1)Some good – some bad - Cool dude – great teacher – Great leader

C) But it doesn't really matter – what Other people say about who Jesus is –

1) Doesn't matter what the Popular opinion is

D) What matters is – WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Which is why Jesus asked his disciples the 2nd Question: **THE BIG QUESTION: Who do you say that I am? -**

A) **That's THE pass or fail.** Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

B) Do you know what THE Christ means?

1) NOT JESUS' LAST NAME: **Mary and Joseph Christ**

C) Christ means the anointed one, the one chosen by God and anointed by God - THE MESSIAH

D) You're the Christ; you are the Son of the living God. – **THIS WAS A DECLARATION OF DEITY!**

1) Jesus is God – YOUR GOD? – SAVIOR – YOUR SAVIOR?

Jesus says: RIGHT ON PETE – But this didn't come from You – came from my Father IN HEAVEN. - **DIVINE REVELATION**

A) I am sure – Peter was looking at the other guys – hear that!!!

B) Then Jesus says something very interesting: Caused some controversy

V.18 I also say you that you are Peter and **on this rock I will build my church** and the gates of hell or Hades shall not prevail against it and I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in Heaven. Whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven".

Peter the head of the Church Pope: Catholics

A) First of all Church history doesn't support that book of Acts – James is in Charge – he seems to be the main authority

B) The text in the Greek is insightful as well.

1) Jesus uses two different Greek words for "stone" in this passage.

C) Petros, or "Peter," means small stone.

1) Petra means massive stone.

D) In other words, Jesus is saying, "**Blessed are you, little stone. Peter – Petros –**

E) Upon the massive stone of this confession of who I am - I will build My church."

1) Peter's own sermon in the book of Acts – supports this idea that Jesus was talking about Himself!

- "...that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. ¹¹ This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' ¹² Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:10-12

Another thing to note is the idea of the Lord as our Rock was common in the OT Scriptures

- "He is the Rock; his work is perfect" (Deuteronomy 32:4).
- "For their rock is not as our Rock" (Deuteronomy 32:31).
- "There is no rock like our God" (1 Samuel 2:2).
- "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer" (Psalms 18:2).

So Upon this rock – PETRA

A) Gibraltar – this massive stone – what stone ?

B) The declaration – You are the Christ the son of the living God I will build my Church

C) This passage also gives us insight into Jesus' view of the Church

D) I will Build: He is the one that builds the church Not men – not us.

1) The Church is built upon the person of Jesus Christ and nothing else!

E) That is how Culture is impacted!!!!

A Pastor friend of mine was told by his local law enforcement that their Church was the best thing to ever happen to help curb the drug problem in their community.

A)Reason: So many of the drug dealers and drug producers have gotten saved

B)The Drug problem in their community has decreased noticeably.

C)Now their church was not out marching against drugs or trying to be politically active

1)They have just consistently preached Jesus

Jesus said: **If I be lifted up – I will draw all men to myself –**

D)Listen: Where ever Jesus is – the surroundings will be influenced

1) A life/A Home/ A Family/A Church/ Community

Calvary Vista a place where Jesus is consistently lifted up – Worship – Bible studies

A)Kids/ Youth / Young adults – SIMPLY JESUS

B)NOT SIMPLE – SIMPLY – ALL FOR- ALL ABOUT- ALL TO

I will build MY CHURCH

A)POSSESSIVE – Belongs to him – YOUR CHURCH – NO HIS

B)MY BRIDE: Sign of intimacy - Love – special

¹¹ For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, ¹² saying:

“I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You..” **Hebrews 2:11,12**

Because we are connected to him – it means we are Protected.

A)The gates of hell will not prevail against – His Church

B)Gates” represent, in the Bible, authority and power“

1)The gates of hades” then would symbolize the organized power of death and Satan.

C)So Standing at the entry point to what many believed was the entry place to the underworld – all it stood for

1)That is not going to prevail against me!

On the cross – Jesus looked defeated –beaten – crushed!

A)In reality – He was establishing our victory – Satan’s power broken - Price for sin Paid

B)It was a rescue mission – the Savior on the cross was storming the gates of hell – to provide a way for people to be rescued.

1)Set free from the power of Sin

C)Buried in the tomb – again – Looked like all was lost – but three days later he rose

1)He beat death – He established – Who He was

D)Which is why we all need to be able to answer the question – **Who do you say that Jesus is?**

1)Who is Jesus to you? – Son of God – Savior – Lord

This passage teaches that our discovery of Jesus Christ must be a personal discovery.

A)Our knowledge of Jesus must never be at second hand.

B)Christianity never consists in knowing about Jesus; it always consists in knowing Jesus.

1)Jesus Christ demands a personal verdict.

C)He did not ask only Peter, he asks every man: "You--what do you think of me?"

Now what about this Phrase:V.19

I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in Heaven. Whatever you loose on earth will be loosed heaven".

A)Jesus Said this to Peter – He would later say the same thing to all of the disciples in **Matthew 18:18**

B)Keys represent **authority and Possession**. – My wife and I share a set of Keys to our Cars – our house – My office

1)Passcode Keys to computers – banking, etc.

C)The thing we need to catch with this is the **Context of Jesus Building his Church**

1)Context is gospel – and mission.

D)We get into trouble when we isolate a phrase from the context – apply it where it doesn't belong

1)People speak of binding and loosing – special power over people – situations, etc.

Jesus is talking about building His Church –

A)He is talking about the disciples being given authority in His mission.

B) The power for binding and loosing is something that the Jewish rabbis of that day used.

1)They **bound or loosed** an individual in the application of a particular point of the law.

C)To loose was to permit; to bind was to prohibit.

Jesus was giving his apostles similar authority in the Work of Building the Kingdom.

A)Peter was given the privilege of opening “the door of faith” to the Jews at Pentecost (Acts 2),

- to **the Samaritans** (Acts 8:14ff),
- and to **the Gentiles** (Acts 10).

B)But the other Apostles shared this authority as they ministered the gospel

1)Unlock with the Apostle Paul And as they unlocked the mysteries of the NC – writing the NT.

Before we go today we need to see one last thing:

A)Having declared His person, Jesus now declared His work; for the two must go together.

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

Now this was a clear statement concerning his death and Resurrection – He had only hinted at before.

A)Yes I am the Christ – The Messiah – Yes I am the Son of God.

B)Yes I am going to build my Church – and here is where it is going to start – **THE CROSS**

C)Christianity without the cross is worthless.

1)Without the cross there is no salvation because there is no Savior

D)Jesus came to Storm the gates of Hell- to Redeem that which had been lost

1)He would in his death pay the price for us to be Set free from slavery to sin –

E)Sin's Penalty Paid for – Sin's Power broken

1)He accomplished all of that in His death

But He didn't stay dead – this is the Key

A)He Rose to give Life – freedom and power to anyone who puts their faith in Him

B)That was the plan –that was always the plan

1)Here He is revealing the plan

C)Peter can't process this: **Peter's reaction:**

²² Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” he rebukes Jesus-

What was Peter's mistake? He was thinking like a man, for most men want to escape suffering and death.

A)He did not have God's mind in the matter.

B)This was not the Disciples plan – not signed up for

C)A conquering Messiah – not a suffering Messiah

²³ But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

A)Seem Harsh to you? Called him Satan?

B)Listen: that was the message of Satan all along to Jesus – from Pinnacle see nations – bow to me and they're yours

1)**You can have the world without the cross**

C)**Peter is being used as an instrument of the devil here!**

This is encouraging: One minute Peter has Divine revelation

A)Next minute he is an instrument of Satan.

B)I can stand here one minute – share wonderful Divine truths –

1)An hour later get mad at my wife and say something I end up regretting

C)We are flawed people! Peter was still a work in Progress – So are all of us

1)Give each other grace: We all blow it

Jesus didn't come to save Perfect people

A)He came to save those who mess up – Broken

B)Transform us – Peter denied Jesus

1)Jesus didn't give up on him

C)Be Honest: You are Jesus – in your darkest hour when you needed support the most

1)One of your closest friends – Denies that he even knows you – 3 TIMES – 3X – 3X – CURSING

D)Would you forgive Him?

1)Would you restore Him?

2)Would you bless Him ?

I think most of us would say No Way!

A)Not Jesus –What I Love that about him

So The Big question today is not – What does the world say that Jesus is

A)The Big question is- Who do you say that he is?

B)Who is He to you?

C)How is that shaping your life – the way that you live?

Leads to another question: Who do people say that you are?

A)Recently for me- Conversation with another Pastor – about an individual

B)We were not seeing eye to eye on the situation or the individual

C)I was giving the person the benefit of the doubt sort of viewing the situation by “his intentions”

1)He was viewing by the persons “Actions”

D)You know Rob – that is one thing I like about you – you choose to see the good in everyone.

Now I don't say that to say- Oh look at how wonderful Pastor Rob is

A)But to say – there was a time in my life – probably 10 or 15 yrs ago

B)Not the case – I tended to see the worst in others – the flaws

C)So I was excited – when he said that- Hey if that is something I am known for – PTL – Growth

D)Becoming more like Jesus

Who do you say that Jesus is – Big Question

Who do people say that you are? - Reflected