

CONFESSING THE KING

MATTHEW 16:13-20

“Happy is the soul who says the name Jesus Christ,
the crucified!”

-Chrysostom

I. The Disciples Prepared

II. The Truth Proclaimed

III. The King's Promises

Into the Bible:

1. In contrast to the Jewish leaders, who had already decided about Jesus' identity (Mark 3:20-22), the Jewish people were apparently still deciding. They were ready to accept him as a prophet—even a resurrected one, but not yet as the Messiah. Do people today seem willing to accept an idea of who Jesus is if only it fits their own concepts? What does Romans 10:9 tell us about a saving knowledge of who Jesus is?

2. Peter had all the same evidences to evaluate Jesus as did the people and the leadership. Jesus validates his confession of himself as the Christ, the Messiah, but puts credit firmly on God not Peter. Is the difference between us as believers and the unsaved a matter of how astute we are in recognizing Jesus for who He really is? (John 6:44, 15:26; Romans 8:30)

Application:

3. In verses 18-19 Jesus makes clear the concept of the Church as a divinely established and protected institution. How acceptable then is substituting contemporary options like private Bible study, participating in small groups or parachurch organizations? If the Church is the collected fellowship of believers in a local body why is Hebrews 10:25 such an important reminder to us?

For Families:

4. Talk with your children about who they understand Jesus to be.