

The Story of Jesus (Lesson 28)

Introduction:

1. To grow in the knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18) we must carefully search the Scriptures (John 5:39).
2. In this lesson we are studying some important information concerning "Jesus' church" (Matthew 16:13-19).
3. Before He dealt with His church, . . .

Discussion:

- I. JESUS FIRST TALKED ABOUT HIS IDENTITY (vs.13-17)
 - A. (vs.13) After arriving in Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked His disciples what people said about His identity.
 - B. (vs.14) The disciples reported that people held a variety of views.
 1. Some people thought Jesus was:
 - a. John the Baptist
 - 1) Herod, the man who had John beheaded, held this view (Matthew 14:1-2).
 - 2) Those who heard John should have known otherwise (John 1:19-20, 29, 34-36).
 - b. Elijah
 - 1) This view may have resulted from a misunderstanding of Malachi 4:5-6.
 - 2) Jesus taught that John fulfilled Malachi's prophecy (Matthew 11:14).
 - c. Jeremiah
 - d. one of the other prophets from the past.
 - C. (vs.15) Jesus asked His disciples what they said concerning His identity.
 - D. (vs.16) Peter identified Jesus as "*the Christ, the Son of the living God.*"
 - E. (vs.17) After blessing Peter, Jesus said that the Father had revealed this information to him.
 1. Peter went to the right source to learn about the Lord's identity (Matthew 17:5).
 2. Peter remained convinced that Jesus is God's Son (John 6:69).
 - F. After dealing with His personal identity, . . .
 - II. JESUS GAVE SOME IDENTIFYING MARKS FOR HIS CHURCH (vs.18-19)
 - A. Jesus indicated that the church belongs to Him (Acts 20:28; Romans 16:16).
 - B. Jesus said He would build His church upon "*this rock*" [the fact that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God].
 - C. Jesus said that the gates of "hell" [Hades] would not prevent Him from building His church.
 - D. Jesus spoke of His church and the kingdom of heaven interchangeably.
 - E. Jesus said He would give Peter the keys of the kingdom, and Peter would speak with authority from heaven.
 - F. A careful examination of Acts 2 indicates that Jesus built His church on the day of Pentecost that followed His ascension to heaven.

Conclusion:

1. During the Lord's ministry some people were mistaken about His identity because they did not go to the right source for information; however, Peter's example shows that Jesus can be identified on the basis of evidence (John 20:30-31).
2. Even though many people are confused about the church today, Jesus' true church can also be recognized and identified by those who go to the right source for information.