



The King and His Kingdom *Matthew 16*

What *Must* Be Said About Jesus

Review: Chapter 11-16—Focus

1. The identity of Jesus
2. The growing opposition to Jesus

Chapter 16 is a “pinnacle” in which the full identity of Jesus is perceived by his disciples and the means of establishing God’s reign is revealed.

VV. 1-4 Pharisees (purists; separatists) came with the Sadducees (elitists; nobility; high priest source) to “test” Jesus to ascertain how he will respond to their questioning and demands.

VV. 5-12 This is the problem of many churches today: more concern is shown about bread to eat (outward perception) than about correct doctrine (truthful teaching).

Chapter Climax

VV. 13-17 The point Matthew has been building to from the beginning of his Gospel is that *Jesus is the Christ*. (John named the same purpose.)

Matt. 1:1 “The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ.”

John 20:30-31 “These are written so that you may believe that *Jesus is the Christ*, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

The confession of Peter was given for all of the Apostles. And the blessings pronounced by Jesus were also for all 12.

The Jews had many expectations for the Christ : a king, a priest, a prophet. Jesus is fulfilled all of these.

2 Corinthians 1:20 “*For all the promises of God find their ‘Yes’ in him.*”

The King and His Kingdom

VV. 17-19 **Three promises of Jesus**

1. On this ROCK (confession) I will build my Church.
2. The gates of hell (hades) will not prevail against it.
3. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

The Power of the Keys:

- A) Preach the Gospel
- B) Forgive and retain sins (loose/bind)
- C) Administer the sacraments

VV. 21-28 Jesus began to prepare his disciples for what was to come, and discovers they are still unaware that he must die and be raised on the third day in order to fulfill his anointed purpose.

In a few days, some of the disciples will see with their own eyes a further revelation of the Christ.

Walking in Matthew’s Sandals

Further study and discussion:

Reread vv. 5-12. Jesus warned his disciples about the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees—their false doctrine that was pervasive among the people. Can you cite examples of how false teaching may become firmly embedded in peoples’ minds and values today? Discuss how the Power of the Keys of the Kingdom is used to address these false teachings?

Reread v.26. These are the ultimate questions. How has the “leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees” dulled peoples’ sensitivity to thinking about God and their eternal future? What can awaken them to their need? (Recall the Power of the Keys of the Kingdom.)