

### **Marinating in God's Word: Matthew 16:13-20**

You can't find a more important question than the one Jesus asks us: "Who do you say that I am?" As we'll see it's connected with who he says we are!

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- Caesarea Philippi had shrines to Syrian, Greek, and Roman gods. Jesus and the disciples could have seen these shrines when he asked his questions. What impact might the location have had on the disciples as Jesus elicited from them a realization of his identity? How was he illumined by the contrast with the shrines?
- Jesus asked them for their sense of who people thought he was. They reported that the people imagined he must be John the Baptist or an Old Testament prophet – way off the mark. Who do non-believers today think Jesus is? Who would you tell the non-believer that Jesus is? What non-jargon language would you use to describe him?
- The Lord had shown Peter, at least in an introductory way, who Jesus was. What does "Christ" (Messiah in Hebrew) tell you about Jesus? How about "Son of the living God"?
- We believe that Jesus gave Simon the nickname "Peter" (meaning rock) to call forth a new identity in him. How was he anything but a "rock" thus far? What stories are there in Acts that show him to be a "rock"?
- It's a curious phrase: "the gates of hell shall not prevail..." What do you think Jesus meant?

Next week we will focus upon Mark 10:46-52.