“YOU ARE THE MESSIAH”

Matthew 16:13–20

Key Verse: 16:16

1. Review the already mounting questions about Jesus’ identity (7:28–29; 8:27; 9:8,33; 11:2–6; 12:22–23). Trace their journey on a map (13a). What did Jesus ask? (13b) What do people think of Jesus today? How did the disciples respond? (14) What were the main traits of these men, and what did it mean to compare Jesus to them?
2. What personal question did Jesus ask? (15) How were the disciples better prepared than the crowds to answer this question? Why do you think Jesus focused on leading his disciples to know who he truly was?
3. Read verse 16. Why do you think Simon Peter spoke up first? What is the literal meaning of the word “Messiah”? What did this concept “the Messiah” mean to the people of Israel? (see 1:1,16,17) What does it mean to personally confess that Jesus is my Messiah? (cf. Jn4:25,28–30; Isa9:6)
4. What else did Simon Peter say about Jesus? (16b) Who else had said this about Jesus? (3:17; 4:3,6; 8:29; 14:33) What do you think it meant to Peter when he said that Jesus is “the son of the living God”? Why is it so important to personally confess our faith in Jesus? (10:32; cf. Ro10:9,10; 1Ti6:12; 1Jn4:15)
5. How did Jesus bless Simon Peter, and what does it mean to us? (17; 11:25–27; cf. Gal1:11,12; Eph1:17) What did he promise him, and what does it mean to us? (18; cf. Eph2:19–22; Ro8:37–39) What else did he promise, and what does it mean? (19; cf. 18:18; Jn20:23) What did he finally say, and why? (20)