

PETER'S CONFESSION

When we broke for summer, we were studying the following seven aspects of the life of Peter from the Book of Matthew.

- Peter's calling – Matt.4:18-22
- Peter's mother-in-law's healing – Matt.8:14-17
- Peter walking on water – Matt.14:22-33
- Peter's confession – Matt.16:13-23
- Peter at the Transfiguration – Matt.17:1-22
- Peter at Gethsemane – Matt.26:36-51
- Peter's three denials – Matt.26:31-35, 69-75

We are now returning to our study of **Peter's confession** recorded in all three synoptic gospels (Matt.16: 13-20; Mark 8:27-30; and Luke 9:18-21).

Peter's confession came from answering Jesus' two "who-do" questions (16:13-4, 15-16).

Write Peter's confession to the question, "Who do YOU say I am?" _____.

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of Peter's confession as recorded in the Book of Matthew.

1. While public opinion was divided as to who Jesus was, Peter's confession lined up perfectly with the word of God.

The **angel Gabriel** sent from heaven declared, "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him of His father David." (Luke 1:32) and "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:35)

The **voice of God** sent from heaven declared, "This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." (Matt.3:16-17; 17:5)

Peter's confession sent from heaven declared, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." (16:16) "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven." (16:17) (11:25-26)

2. Jesus asked the two "who-do" questions to evoke what His disciples believed about Him as compared to the religious popular opinion.

In context of previous events of Matt.16:1-12, Jesus was attempting to get His disciples to deal with the OMCD leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees thinking regarding the Coming of Christ (16:11-12).

Peter had earlier concluded that Jesus was the Christ (John 5:39-40; 6:66-67). The issue is no longer WHO but WHY had Christ come into the world?

3. Yet when it came to the WHY of the Coming of Christ, Peter had some distorted views due to OMCD that must be corrected.

Peter had some Pharisaical leaven (OMCD) thinking regarding the WHY? “From that time Jesus Christ began to show His disciples that **He must (dei / p.a.impv) go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things** from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and **be killed, and be raised up on the third day.**” (16:21) [Four aorist infin / absolute fact of God’s will].

Note who Jesus said would reject Him and be hostile towards Him.

WATCH! “And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to you.’” (16:22)

PAY ATTENTION! “But He turned and said to Peter, “Get (hupago/ p.a.impv) behind Me Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.” (16:23)

How is important is the WHY? “For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” (GOSPEL of Grace Salvation; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9)

4. Peter’s confession was based on the belief that Jesus was the Christ (NMDV). However, Peter’s later denial was based on the belief that Christ did not have to become the suffering Savior of Isa.53:1-12.

Principle: false assumptions lead to false expectations that lead to false interpretations that lead to false applications (OMCD).

Peter will have to put off false beliefs and put on truth in regard to WHY of the Coming of Christ in order for him to advance spiritually in this area of his spiritual growth (Eph.4:22-24; Rom.12:2).

Listen to Peter some 30 years later – “And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.” (1Pet.2: 24; Isa.53: 4)

5. In spite of misunderstanding WHY, Jesus praised Peter’s confession of faith regarding WHO in Matt.16:16-19.

Jesus pronounced a special beatitude upon Peter because of God’s word residing and functioning as truth in his soul (faith cycle).

Because of new man positive volition (NMPV), Jesus is able to reveal more spiritual truth to a spiritual advancing believer (16:18-21).

NMPV allows the believer to advance spiritually through the cycling of God’s word through the faith system (Eph.4:11-16).