

PREROGATIVE AND POWER. JESUS NOW PROBES THE HEARTS OF HIS DISCIPLES. DO THEY ACCEPT THIS POPULAR VIEW OF HIM?

JESUS IS NOT MERELY CONCERNED WITH THE POPULAR NOTIONS BUT HE IS CONCERNED TO KNOW WHOM HIS DISCIPLES HAVE DISCOVERED HIM TO BE. HE COULD NOT BUILD HIS CHURCH AND HIS KINGDOM IN THE WORLD ON POPULARITY THEN, NEITHER CAN HE NOW. THE BUILDING OF HIS CHURCH REQUIRES SOMETHING MORE STABLE AND FIRM AND DEPENDABLE, SOMETHING THAT IS BORN OF CONVICTION AND EXPERIENCE, SOMETHING SO PROFOUND AND REAL THAT MEN CLING TO IT MORE TENACIOUSLY THAN TO LIFE ITSELF. THEREFORE HE ASKS: "WHOM SAY YE THAT I AM?" . . . THIS QUESTION IS A TEST OF THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF HIM, OF THEIR CONCEPTION OF HIS PERSON AND CHARACTER AND OF HIS ORIGIN AND MISSION. THEIR ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION IS THE TEST OF HIS OWN POWER TO REVEAL HIMSELF TO HIS DISCIPLES AND TO GUIDE THEM TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF HIMSELF. THIS IS A CRUCIAL MOMENT! EVERYTHING DEPENDS UPON THEIR ANSWER! WILL THEIR ANSWER PROVE THEM READY FOR THE ADVANCE STEP WHICH JESUS IS NOW ABOUT TO TAKE? WILL THE ANSWER BE A DISAPPOINTMENT - OR THRILL HIS HEART WITH JOY?

1. THEIR ANSWER:

VS 16: "THOU ART THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD"

THEY HAVE DISCOVERED HIM. THIS ANSWER WAS FROM A CONVICTION OF HEART AND EXPERIENCE.

MATT: 16: 13-19 (19)

FIRST QUESTION TO THE DISCIPLES

VS. 13 "WHOM DO MEN SAY THAT I THE SON OF MAN AM?"

VS. 14 THEIR ANSWER: JOHN THE BAPTIST, ELIAS, JEREMIAH, OR SOME OTHER PROPHET.

THERE ARE STILL VARIED BELIEFS ON WHO JESUS IS. THE JEWS EVEN TODAY, THOUGH JESUS CAME AS WAS PROPHESED, DO NOT ACCEPT HIM AS THE SON OF GOD - THE MESSIAH. THEY BELIEVE THAT HE WAS A GOOD MORAL MAN, OR A GREAT TEACHER. OTHERS ACCEPT HIM AS A HEAVENLY CREATURE, BUT NOT WITH POWER AND AUTHORITY AS JUDGE.

II. JESUS THEN ASKS THEM, "BUT WHOM SAY YE THAT I AM?"

THIS QUESTION HAS A GREAT DEAL OF DEPTH. HE HAS HEARD WHAT OTHERS SAID OF HIM. THAT JESUS SHOULD BE ACCEPTED AS ONE OF THE GREATEST MEN OF ISRAEL AND OF HISTORY, BUT THAT HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ONLY AS A GREAT MAN, A MATCHLESS TEACHER, OR A PROPHET OF GOD, WAS A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE DISCIPLES AND TO THE MISSION OF JESUS. THIS POPULAR APPRAISAL OF JESUS IS WIDESPREAD TODAY AND DENIES HIS DEITY, REPUDIATES HIS UNDERIVED AUTHORITY, AND CALLS IN QUESTION HIS DIVINE

Now: Whom Do you say Jesus is?
What do you believe about him?

IV. MY KEY AND YOUR KEY.

HOW MUCH DO WE USE OUR KEYS? MULTITUDES OF CHRISTIANS

HAVE NEVER OPENED THE DOOR INTO HEAVEN FOR A SINGLE SOUL.

(a) RUSTY KEYS *Nominating Comm. Positions open.*

(b) PROPER USE OF OUR KEYS.

(c) YOUR PERSONAL ANSWER TO CHRIST'S QUESTION WILL

DETERMINE HOW EFFECTIVELY YOU USE YOUR KEY.

III - FR 1948

This is because of key to heaven
being used.

all - A.B. Simpson.

2. WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER?

III. THE KEYS:

1. PETER AND THE OTHER DISCIPLES WERE GIVEN THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM.

(a). KEYS AN ANCIENT SYMBOL OF AUTHORITY.

VS. 19. "AND I WILL GIVE UNTO THEE THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN."

EVERY JEWISH SCRIBE WHEN FULLY TRAINED AND AUTHORIZED TO TEACH HIS BRETHREN, RECEIVED FROM HIS TUTORS AND SUPERIORS A KEY, TO SYMBOLIZE THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE DIVINE WILL WHICH HE POSSESSED. SOME CARRIED THEIR KEY IN THEIR GIRDLE, OR WOVEN INTO THEIR ROBE: AS AN OPEN SIGN OF THE PROFESSION TO WHICH THEY HAD BEEN SET APART. WHEN CHRIST GAVE THESE DISCIPLES THE KEYS, THEY WOULD UNDERSTAND THEY WERE TO BE TEACHERS OF TRUTH, EXPOUNDERS OF THE LAW THEY HAD LEARNED OF HIM.

2. RESULTS OF THEIR EFFORTS: *Accomplished great things.*

A. Their faith was real. meant something. willing to die for what they believed. Rather fight than switch - switch then fight

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