

THE GREAT CONFESSION
(Matthew 16:13-17)

- I. The SETTING (Matt. 16:13*a*)
 - A. The DISTRICT was ruled by Herod PHILIP
 - 1. The northernmost section of OT ISRAEL
 - 2. Given to HEROD THE GREAT by Caesar Augustus
 - B. The CITY was Caesarea Philippi
 - 1. Originally a small village along the trade route between DAMASCUS and EGYPT
 - 2. ENLARGED and renamed by Herod PHILIP
- II. The EXAMINATION (Matt. 16:13*b*-15)
 - A. The PRELIMINARY question is GENERAL (16:13*b*)
 - 1. Identifies Himself as “the SON of MAN” (cf. Dan. 7:13)
 - 2. Challenged them to THINK ABOUT what people were saying
 - B. The ANSWERS are VARIED (16:14)
 - 1. “Some say JOHN THE BAPTIST” (cf. 14:1-2)
 - 2. “Some say ... ELIJAH” (cf. Mal. 4:5)
 - 3. “Some say ... JEREMIAH” (cf. 2 Macc. 2:4-8)
 - 4. “Some say ... ONE of the PROPHETS”

- C. The VITAL question makes it PERSONAL (16:15)
 - 1. “What have YOU DECIDED...”
 - 2. “...About Who I AM?”

- III. The CONFESSIOIN (Matt. 16:16)
 - A. PETER spoke for the GROUP
 - B. He AFFIRMED truths they had acknowledged BEFORE
 - 1. Identified as “the SON of GOD” by JOHN THE BAPTIST (John 1:34)
 - 2. Called “the MESSIAH” by ANDREW (John 1:41)
 - 3. Called “the SON of GOD” by NATHANAEL (John 1:49)
 - C. He spoke from a NEW PERSPECTIVE
 - D. They had become FIRMLY CONVINCED

- IV. The RESPONSE (Matt. 16:17)
 - A. Jesus DECLARED that Peter was BLESSED (cf. Eph. 1:3-6)
 - B. Jesus EXPLAINED the SOURCE of their knowledge
 - 1. Affirms human INABILITY (cf. 1 Cor. 2:14)
 - 2. REQUIRES divine REVELATION
 - a. Jesus’ DISPLAYS of divine POWER
 - b. Jesus’ CLAIMS about HIMSELF
 - c. The Spirit’s ENABLEMENT to RECOGNIZE truth