



Sunday, March 29, 2020

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Matthew 16:13-17:8

We often think of this passage as an evangelistic text. In some sense, it is an excellent evangelistic text that invites non-Christians to answer the question: who is Jesus? But as Pastor Don brought out this morning, it is possible to get the right answer to the question and not have a full understanding of what it means. We might be sincere Christians who affirm that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, but how does His kingship impact our day-to-day lives? Jesus Himself said that there are many who call Him “Lord,” who will not inherit the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 7:21).

As Christians, especially in a time of suffering, we must revisit this question constantly. Who is Jesus? He is the Christ, the Son of the living God. On the one hand, that means that He is the One who inherits all authority over heaven and earth. But on the other hand, He is the One that God decided in eternity past would suffer for the sins of His people. As we reflect on God’s sovereignty in Jesus’s own suffering and the outcome of that suffering, then we will be better equipped to take comfort and glorify Him in the midst of our own suffering.

Context

This sequence of stories appears in each of what scholars call the “Synoptic Gospels” (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). These Gospels are called “synoptic” because they tell the story from essentially the same perspective. The Greek prefix “syn” means “with.” The word “optikos” (or optic) means “sight.” In essence, it could be translated “shared sight.” The perspective that is shared really begins with the story of Jesus and His disciples in Caesarea Philippi having this discussion about His identity. From there, Jesus ascends the Mount of Transfiguration with the three, and then proceeds to Jerusalem where He will suffer and die and rise again. Praise God for Jesus’s work of salvation!

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Matthew 16:13-17:8

“See Jesus Only”

Who do people say that I am?

The popular view

- John the Baptist
- Elijah
- Jeremiah
- One of the prophets

The Disciples' (Believer's) View

- Peter, the spokesman
- Christ...Messiah
- Son of the Living God
- Anointed One
- Revealed by the Father

The Father's View

- This is My Son
- Whom I love
- With Him I am well pleased
- Listen to Him!

Discuss

- 1) What is something that God is teaching you during the pandemic/quarantine?
- 2) What is wrong with viewing Jesus only as a prophet or a good teacher?
- 3) Peter had the right answer—that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God—but he wasn't willing to submit to Jesus's authority that He had to die. What kinds of things does the Bible teach that you would affirm but struggle to live out in obedience?
- 4) Imagine you were on the mountain with Jesus, Peter, James, and John. How do you think you would have reacted when God spoke from the glory cloud?
- 5) How does knowing that it was God's plan for Jesus to suffer in order to bring about our salvation impact the way we endure suffering in our lives?