



Knowing Jesus

“Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?” (Matthew 16:13).

Bulletin VCMT54

26 August 2020

“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 20 Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.” (Matthew 16:13-20).

Knowing about a person and knowing the person are entirely two different things. It is interesting to note how easy it was for the disciples to tell what others say of Jesus, than for them to say who Jesus is. Personal knowledge takes one into a deeper relationship with the person and brings rewards and blessings that merely know about a person does not.

A preacher once said that some Christians only have enough knowledge of God to make them miserable - i.e. just enough knowledge to stir up the wrath of Satan but not enough to overcome him. In this age and time, just having knowledge about Jesus would not be sufficient to empower anyone to live victoriously and triumphantly as God intends. It takes personal knowledge of Jesus to tap into His power for defeating Satan as demonstrated in the record in Acts 19:13-16 “Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. 14 And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? 16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded”.

Your knowledge of the identity of a person sets the tone and determines the quality and value of your

“But whom say ye that I am?” (Matthew 16:15).

relationship with him or her! It is this fact that prompted Jesus to ask His disciples “Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?” (Matthew 16:13). Many answers were offered, but when Jesus made the question personal to the disciples – “But whom say ye that I am?” (Matthew 16:15), there was silence that was later broken by a singular answer from Peter - “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16).

This question still faces each of us today and the answer that comes from the bottom of our hearts will be reflected in the quality of the relationship we have (or do not have) with Jesus, and how we value it.

Jesus pointed out that Peter’s answer came through a revelation from God. In the same way, we need divine revelation to know Jesus as God intends, and in a manner that makes a difference. Such knowing attracts rewards and benefits including:

- 1) Divine recognition and blessing “Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona” (vs 17):
- 2) Spiritual insight and revelation knowledge “... for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven” (vs 17).
- 3) Sure foundation for constant victory “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (vs 18).
- 4) Keys to access the resources of God’s kingdom “And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven” (vs 19).
- 5) Authority for continual victory and dominion “and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (vs 19)
- 6) Uncommon privilege for partnership and knowledge of divine mysteries not accessible to all “Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ” (vs 20)

Determine to know Jesus personally today!