

Sermon: Who Do You Say I AM part 1- Separation
Text: Matthew 16:13-18
Date: Sunday, Oct. 25, 2020

"If Bible Christianity is to survive the present world upheaval, we shall need to have a fresh revelation of the greatness and the beauty of Jesus.... He alone can raise our cold hearts to rapture and restore again the art of true worship."
-- Aiden Wilson Tozer

I'm inviting us into this greatness and beauty of the One and true Jesus

Matthew 16:13–20 (ESV)

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Why ask "who do you say I am?":

1. To separate the cultural constructs of the day from the sacred and divine reality of forever.

Luke 12:49–51

⁴⁹ "I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled!"⁵⁰ I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!"⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.

2. To experience the joyful discovery of the true self.

Matt. 16:17-19

¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven."¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Are you ready for the spiritual deep dive?

Philippians 3:10–11 (ESV)

¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.