

## What's in a Name? - Grace Bible Fellowship - 11/8/20

### Matthew 16:13-20

*For three glorious years Jesus has been intensely training his disciples. Living and eating with them. Teaching, illustrating, demonstrating to them with many convincing proofs and miracles, just Who He was! Now, at the peak (and unbeknownst to them the ending days of his ministry), Jesus turns an abrupt corner and as a great test of their understanding, he deliberately takes them into radically rough, dangerous waters, and there amidst their distress and confusion, he asks them the most important question.*

#### ***The radically rough, dangerous waters of Caesarea Philippi***

- 1) v13-15, The location: For the first and only time in his ministry Jesus leads them outside the boundaries of Judea/Samaria. North, at the headwaters of the Jordan river lies the pagan pleasure city of Caesarea Philippi, the Las Vegas of the Near East, Sin City.
- 2) Two vital, soul-searing questions about the Name:
  1. *Who do people (others) say the Son of Man is?* (note the demand for interpretation of Daniel the prophet: Who is Daniel's "Son of Man")?
  2. *Now for you disciples: Who do you say that I am?*

Jesus requires the disciples to move beyond mere opinion about what the Scriptures say to: a) Accurately interpret and apply Daniel's prophesy to Jesus, and b) thus to know, glorify and actively and personally trust in his Name.

V16-17, Peter's Spirit-illuminated answer: You (Jesus) are the Anointed/Messiah, the son of David, are also the eternal Son of the ever Living God!  
"Blessed" - Happy and Satisfied!

V18-19. The Lord immediately points Peter and all the disciples (PAY ATTENTION HERE) *past the current, awful scene in front of them. A scene that loudly demands their attention and elicits their horror and incenses their finely tuned Jewish morals. Jesus draws them inexorably to two truths: First, the glory and ultimate victory of the church in the immediate time following. And second, the majestic destiny of its members in the transformed earth and intense pleasures of the Millennial Kingdom, where they will rule and reign and enjoy uninterrupted righteous government, wellness, feasting, fellowship and the goodness of creation turned right-side-up!*

**1 Peter 2:11 – The apostle of this very same Christ hits us right where we live: We are but aliens and strangers at the moment, visiting this land for a very brief layover. Our citizenship is elsewhere. We do hold papers as ambassadors here. So we hold our time here dear, as stewards of the mysteries, but our real home country lies over the horizon, from which comes its Emperor soon!**

*Turn your Eyes upon Jesus*

O soul, are you weary and troubled?  
No light in the darkness you see?  
There's light for a look at the Savior,  
And life more abundant and free!

*Refrain:*

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow  
strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.*

Thro' death into life everlasting,  
He passed, and we follow Him there;  
O'er us sin no more hath dominion--  
For more than conqu'rors we are!

*Refrain*

His Word shall not fail you--He  
promised;  
Believe Him, and all will be well:  
Then go to a world that is dying,  
His perfect salvation to tell!

*Refrain*

*O Worship the King*

1 O worship the King all-glorious above,  
O gratefully sing his power and his love:  
our shield and defender, the Ancient of  
Days,  
pavilioned in splendor and girded with  
praise.

2 O tell of his might and sing of his grace,  
whose robe is the light, whose canopy  
space.  
His chariots of wrath the deep  
thunderclouds form,  
and dark is his path on the wings of the  
storm.

3 Your bountiful care, what tongue can  
recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
it streams from the hills, it descends to the  
plain,  
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

4 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail.  
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the  
end,  
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and  
Friend!