

JUNE 23, 2024

# "The Bottom Line"

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-19



## The BOTTOM LINE

5th Sunday after Pentecost

### AUTHOR

Matthew (Levi), a Jewish tax collector who became one of Jesus' disciples. Matthew wrote especially to the Jews and the purpose of this gospel was to present clear evidence that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior. It was written approximately A.D. 60-65.

### CONTEXT

As our scripture passage opens today, Jesus and his disciples have left the area around the Sea of Galilee and have traveled north to Caesarea Philippi, originally named Caesarea. Palestine was divided into 4 territories, each with a different ruler. Herod Antipas (called Herod in the gospels) ruler over Galilee. His brother Philip ruled over the territory which included Caesarea Philippi. The area was influenced by Roman and Greek culture and there were pagan temples and idols in abundance.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 16:13-19. When Jesus and the disciples arrive in Caesarea Philippi, what does Jesus ask his disciples?
2. What was the disciples' answer? Read Mark 6:14-16 to see what people were saying about Jesus.
3. The people may have thought this of Jesus due to Deuteronomy 18:18. What does this verse say the prophet will do?

4. Jesus then posed another question to the disciples, this one specific to them. What did he ask them?
5. Peter answered the question with what proclamation?
6. By saying Jesus is the Messiah or Christ, Peter is saying he is the anointed One, the fulfillment of the promises of God. Let that sink in for a minute. Read the following passages from the Old Testament that say the Messiah is more than a human .... He is God: Isaiah 9:6, Jeremiah 23:5-6, Micah 5:2.
7. What do you think the disciples had been thinking, witnessing Jesus perform miracles and hearing what he said to them?
8. What was Jesus' response to Peter's proclamation? What did he say about Peter's identity and role?
9. What did Jesus say about the church to come? Read I Peter 2:4-6: What does Peter say later about the church?
10. Christology comes from 2 Greek words meaning Christ and the study of him. It answers the question, "Who is Jesus?" This is a question we must all answer at some point. If we were asked this question what would be our response and why? And how would we explain Jesus to non-believers?

### ENCOURAGEMENT

All believers are joined in the church by faith in Jesus Christ.