

SERIES: SAINT AND SINNER- 2/18/24 (#2)

PASTOR LEE

Who Is
Jesus?

- Pastor Lee references the recent Super Bowl and two particular advertisements (He Gets Us Campaign) in which they, using their polling research and in effort to optimally grab attention, portrayed Jesus as 'the person who cared for anyone and everyone'.
- At the 'Las Vegas of its time'...Caesarea Philippi.....Jesus confronts His apostles with two questions (ie. 1. Who do people say I am?.....2. Who do you say I am?)

Question #1

Math 16:13-14— - Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, "WHO DO PEOPLE SAY THAT THE SON OF MAN IS?" And they said, "SOME SAY JOHN THE BAPTIST, OTHERS SAY ELIJAH AND OTHERS JEREMIAH OR ONE OF THE PROPHETS."

Varied
Perceptions
Then...
And Now

- Phrasing the the questions as such, He was helping them out with the answers. (ie. Isaiah, 600 years prior, had referred to "the Son of Man coming in the clouds") . Regarding other people's perceptions, the apostles replied: John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or a prophet). All plausible to the people, especially John the Baptist who was so bold, so uniquely spiritual in life and who was martyred for His faith. To wit, even Herod-the Tetrarch, was reported to have replied to the question who Jesus was as ' John, whom I beheaded (Mark 6:16) has been raised.' (Mark 6:16) ((imagine the fear that would have caused Herod!)). **RE: Elijah, he also was connected to great miracles.Or, Jeremiah: "the weeping prophet....the one who was so caring/loving...yet was thrown into a pit to die.**
- **RE: question #1: begs the further crucial question: today..... who do people at large say that Jesus is?**
- **A.W. Tozer: "whatever comes to our minds when we think about God IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT US...WE TEND by a secret law of the soul TO MOVE TOWARD OUR MENTAL IMAGE OF GOD." Something informs each of us of our view of God....that "something" might be 'what we want Him to be or should be or maybe even project God upon ourselves (ie. Eve). In the latter....there is, in effect, NO GOD....nullified by our own selves. G.K. Chesterton said: "he who does not believe in God will believe in anything". (where our culture leads people to today).**
- **Isalah, (Chap. 14:13) , in a vision about the King of Babylon, says "you said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven, above the stars of God, I will set my throne on high".....but you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit. This lines up with the 'me culture'....'I too can reach those heights'.....'I am the center of my world'...just like this King! In hell, souls are saying "WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?"**
- **RE: question # 2.....Jesus asks...."who do you say I am"? KEY question for us all.....got to get this right....only ONE answer!**

Drawing
God In
A Box?

No!

One Answer
!!!

Question #2

Math 16: 15-18- -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."

Peter Gets It Right!

- Peter's response nails it(!) and was something that God had deeply laid on his heartno other way.....and should be on our hearts as well (memorize Peter's words!). In referencing the 'Christ', he is declaring Him 'The Messiah' ('Anointed One'). The One promised by God in the Garden and which was prophesied over 300 times in the Old Testament!

Jesus:
Messiah &
God!

- In ancient times, sin separated people from God which leads to incredible darkness for eternity....just as, today, sin separates us from God. But, there was a promise that a Messiah would come and make it right....who would pay the penalty for all these sins and who would reconcile us with God.

- AND, Peter says further, "You are the Son of the Living God"YOU ARE GOD!!!! Some different religions/world views try to tell you that Jesus is not God, but then Jesus would, theoretically speaking, be just another prophet. So where in the Bible does Jesus say He is God?

- Examples: John 14:9 ".....whoever has seen Me has seen the Father." John 10:30: "I and the Father are One." (outrageous blasphemy to the general Hebrew audience/population). Hebrews 1:3 ".....the Son is the radiance of of God's glorying the fact representation of his Being."

- Jesus is God and that is the foundation of our entire faith. Peter's declaration was a crucial moment back then.....IT IS CRUCIAL FOR US AS WELL!!!! Jesus came down for us...lived a perfect life...and allowed Himself to be crucified on a cross....and as a substitute for us!!! BECAUSE HE IS GOD, HE HAS THE WHERE-WITH-ALL TO MAKE US RIGHT! ASK THE QUESTION: IS HE MY MESSIAH?

- And he proved His declarations via His Resurrection and His ascension into heaven where He sits at the right hand of the Throne of God, the Father!!!! AND, He's becoming back again!!!!.....fulfilling our greatest hope!

What Is Church's

Foundation?

- Reference Math16:18...('upon this rock.....'). Roman Catholic tradition takes those words to mean that Peter IS the foundation of the Church and that the Pope is an official that is in the succeeding authoritative line of Peter. Noting that many in our Church came from Catholic backgrounds, Pastor Lee clarifies that this passage is not saying that the Church is founded on Peter....nor did he create him as the first Pope.

- Remember (see last week's sermon)Peter had his 'highs (eg. his love of Jesus and his horrific martyrdom) and lows' (eg. denying Jesus 3x; compromising the Gospel to appease, etc.)...just like the rest of the human race. Hence, we have the title of this Series... 'Saint and Sinner'.

- V 18 again..."You are Peter".....from the greek word "Petros" which means 'little stone' or 'pebble'....."and upon this rock ".....from the Greek "Petra" which means 'a giant rock that goes down to bedrock'. So, you Peter, are a little pebble...on this huge rock sitting on bedrock. What was that 'big rock'???? It

Peter's Self
Perception
&
Exhortations

was the confession that Peter just made about Jesus (You are the Messiah...you are God)!!!!

- Peter, Himself didn't see it differently...his self image was that he was NOT special, above it all, etc.:

- **1 Peter 5: 1-3- -"So I exhort the elders among you, AS A FELLOW ELDER AND A WITNESS OF THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST, AS WELL AS A PARTAKER IN THE GLORY THAT IS GOING TO BE REVEALED: Shepard the flock that is among you, exercising oversight, NOT UNDER COMPULSION, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain but eagerly; NOT DOMINEERING over those in your charge , but BEING EXAMPLES to the flock."**
(Emphasis/caps added by notetaker))

Peter's
Confession
Is
The Rock!

- So, lots of little pebbles being built up into a Church for the glory of Jesus! Peter is saying 'we are in this together...our collective Church is built on the core of Peter's confession, for His glory!! Peter says further; 'the gates of hell will not prevail against it'.

- Pastor Lee expresses his own view that..... in this next year....there will be "incredible forces against the Church in this next year".these forces"will work incredibly hard to divide us.....I have no idea what the scheme will be...I have no idea what the subject will be..... but there will be a dividing line in this next year meant to separate us. Let's not let them. Let's remember, the Scriptures say Jesus builds His Church and all the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. And we, as a Church, are going to stand strong and keep our eyes on Jesus and on the Word of God."

Jesus
Builds
His Church!

- Our God is NOT just whom we want Him to be.....but He is just as confessed by Peter.....that is the Messiah AND God. Pastor Lee's prayer is....as hearts move today, let that be our confession....just like Peter.

PETER: SAINT AND SINNER

US: SAINTS AND SINNERS

JESUS: MESSIAH AND GOD