

## You Have the Right Key – Matthew 16:13-20

Four days ago, we woke up a little differently than usual.

Jesus makes an impact.

Four days ago we celebrated the birth of Christ. The birth of a King worth stopping whatever we're doing. So why is this King so special? When we sing "Go, tell it on the mountain," this is the "it" in our song.

This song was originally sung by African American slaves in the south before the Civil War.

It was different because instead of focusing on the desire for relief from their affliction, it pointed toward the salvation they could experience in the midst of their suffering.

Jesus' humble birth made Him a Christ they could relate with.

When Peter saw who Jesus was, he saw this man and His teachings were something worth changing everything for.

Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus has been traveling and has recently interacted with and taught about the Pharisee's.

The Pharisee's were looking for ways to expose Him and return to what they're used to, their status quo.

When Jesus asks His disciples who the people think He is, they respond with various answers, mostly about important religious people being resurrected.

But then Jesus asks, "who do YOU say that I am?"

The honest answer to this question defines who we are.

When Peter encountered this critical moment, he had faith in God to reveal to him that this man standing in front of Him was the Christ, the son of the living God!

A true knowledge and acceptance of who He is and what that means for our lives comes only from God and not our own intuition.

We see a change in the name Jesus directs at Peter.

This name shift goes from hearing to doing. It goes from hearing that Jesus is the Christ as Simon, to building the foundation of the Church on that message as Peter.

The keys we have are important to us.

Jesus is going to give Peter a key to the Kingdom of Heaven.

The knowledge that Peter had of who Jesus was, and what Peter would learn in the coming days about how great a sacrifice Jesus would pay for us, granted Peter the keys to the kingdom.

We have this knowledge. Therefore, we too have the keys to the Kingdom!

These keys don't unlock anything tangible on earth, but I would hope this could be an ongoing reminder to you of the key to the Kingdom that you have if you know and accept Christ as your Lord!

The song tells us to go and tell it on the mountain.

For Shepherds, a mountain would be a very reasonable place to go and proclaim this good news.

God often provides us with opportunities to use our keys in places where He has gifted us.

Peter was gifted with the ability to preach.

There is ALWAYS a mountain.

I'm learning about urgency.

There are people in our world, desperate for a savior.

Look past the shallow conversations that consume the majority of our days, and really care about what people are experiencing.

You can't have the man without the message.

People like the idea of doing good things, having good morals, and having a God that wants them to be successful. But that's not why Jesus came to the earth. He came to bring reconciliation, but that couldn't happen without suffering. He tells his disciples that they will suffer too, and they did, a lot.

You'll suffer rejection, sometimes persecution, and the world might hate you. But it's worth it.

Let's offer this breath of relief to a world that desperately needs Jesus.

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