

I Will Build My Church

There are certain questions no one else can answer for us. In Matthew 16, Jesus asks his disciples two such questions, and they are questions people still have to face today. How we answer will determine the trajectory of our entire life.

1. **Read Matthew 16:13-20.** Jesus asks two questions that at their core sum up what we have to sort through for most of our life: “What do other people say?” and “What do I say?” How do you think we relate to these questions as we mature from childhood into adulthood?
2. **“Who do people say the Son of Man is?”** Jesus asks the disciples who other people say Jesus is. What do the disciples’ answers tell us about Jesus’ reputation at the time? What kind of answers do people give today about who Jesus is?
3. **“But what about you? Who do you say I am?”** At the end of the day, Jesus is not most interested in polling data pulled from the masses. He’s asking for our personal answer. Share with the group how you came to the place where you were ready to answer this question for yourself.
4. **“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”** This is the first time in the Gospel of Matthew that anyone says this is who Jesus is. Christianity isn’t founded on a set of values or principles. It’s found/ed by and on a person. How does starting our view of Jesus impact our view of values like love, justice, and equality?
5. **“...on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”** After Simon’s confession, Jesus gives him a new identity (“You are Peter”) and a new community (“I will build my church”). Once we see Jesus for who he really is, Jesus tells us who we really are and what community we belong to. If you are a Christian, how has Jesus given you a new identity and/or a new community? Finish by praying for The Hills Church and for the global church. Ask Jesus to keep building his overcoming church for the sake of nations and generations.

