

Get Out of My Way

Matthew 16:13-28

by Don Falkos

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At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked his disciples, "Who are people saying the Son of Man is?"

They answered, "John the Baptist; Elijah; Jeremiah; or one of the other prophets of old."

"And who do you say I am?"

Simon answered, "You're the Messiah, God's promised ruler."

Jesus said, "Simon, my Father in heaven has revealed this to you." Then Jesus gave Simon a new name, calling him Peter, which means Rock. "And upon this rock," Jesus said, "I will build my church. The powers of evil will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. And you will be the guiding authority of my church."

Jesus gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. He told them he must go to Jerusalem and suffer at the hands of the religious leaders; he must be killed and after three days rise again.

Peter believed the Messiah was going to raise an army, gloriously defeat the enemies of the Jews, and establish his kingdom. He took Jesus aside and scolded him for what he'd said.

Jesus turned away from Peter and said, "Get out of my way, Satan. You are thinking human thoughts rather than looking from God's perspective."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Put aside your selfish ambition. Give up your life for the sake of the good news, and you will find true life. What good would it do to get everything you ever wanted but lose your soul in the process? The Son of Man will come in his Father's glory and will reward each person according to their deeds. I tell you plainly, there are people standing here right now who will not die before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."