

MAIN POINT

Jesus is building His church on the foundation of who He is and nothing can stop that.

INTRODUCTION

What are some of the different ways you have heard Jesus described by non-Christians, either people you know or references you have heard in pop culture?

Why do you think people vary so widely on who they understand Jesus to be?

There has never been a person more famous, or controversial, than Jesus. Even during His day, everyone seemed to have an opinion about who He was and what He came to do. Some thought Him to be a great teacher; others saw Him as a miracle worker; still more concluded that He was possessed by a demon. Similarly, opinions still abound today about who Jesus is. The question of Jesus' identity is the most important question any of us will answer in life, and it is the foundational truth that unites His church.

DISCUSSION

> READ MATTHEW 16:13-20.

What did the different answers given by the disciples say about Jesus' reputation in the culture at the time?

How would you describe who Jesus is to someone who isn't a believer?

Rather than question the merit of their answers, Jesus questioned the personal beliefs of His disciples. Why was this the case?

What do we learn about Jesus from Peter's response?

Why do you think Jesus praised Peter for his confession?

These verses help us understand that Peter's confession of Jesus as the Son of God would become the foundation on which Jesus would build His church. Why is this the only sure foundation for the church?

How can reaffirming Christ as the foundation of the church help us be more effective in reaching others with the gospel?

What forces at work in our society seem to threaten the church? How does it feel to know that nothing can overpower it? How does it impact our work in proclaiming the gospel through it?

APPLICATION

How should the reality that God's church is unstoppable because of its foundation impact your life this week?