

Lesson XI.

PETER'S GREAT CONFESSION

June 10, 1906

Matthew 16 : 13-28. Commit to memory vs. 24, 25. Read Mark 7 : 31 to 8 : 33.

GOLDEN TEXT—Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.—Matthew 16 : 16.

13 ¹ When Je'sus came into the coasts of Cæsare'a Philip'pi, he asked his disciples, saying, ² Whom do men say that ³ I the Son of man ⁴ am ?

14 And they said, Some ⁵ say that thou art John the Baptist : some, ⁶ Eli'as; and others, ⁷ Jeremi'as, or one of the prophets.

15 He saith unto them, But ² whom say ye that I am ?

16 And Si'mon Pe'ter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Je'sus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Si'mon ⁸ Bar-jo'na : for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

18 And ⁹ I say also unto thee, That thou art Pe'ter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of ¹⁰ hell shall not prevail against it.

19 ¹¹ And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven : and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven . . and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

20 Then charged he ¹² his disciples that they should tell no man that he was ¹³ Je'sus the Christ.

21 From that time ¹⁴ forth began Je'sus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jeru'-

Revised Version.—Now : ² Who : ³ Omit I ; ⁴ is ; ⁵ Omit that thou art ; ⁶ Elijah ; ⁷ Jeremiah ; ⁸ Bar-jonah ; ⁹ also say ; ¹⁰ Hades ; ¹¹ Omit and ; ¹² the ; ¹³ Omit Je'sus ; ¹⁴ Omit that ; ¹⁵ the third day be raised up ; ¹⁶ And Peter ; ¹⁷ never ; ¹⁸ a stumbling block ; ¹⁹ mindest ; ²⁰ Omit that be ; ²¹ the things of ; ²² would ; ²³ shall ; ²⁴ shall a man be ; ²⁵ forfeit his life ; ²⁶ life ; ²⁷ shall he render unto ; ²⁸ deeds ; ²⁹ of them that stand ; ³⁰ in no wise.

saera, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and ¹⁵ be raised again the third day.

22 ¹⁶ Then Pe'ter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord : this shall ¹⁷ not be unto thee.

23 But he turned, and said unto Pe'ter, Get thee behind me, Sa'tan : thou art ¹⁸ an offence unto me : for thou ¹⁹ savourest not the things ²⁰ that be of God, but ²¹ those that be of men.

24 Then said Je'sus unto his disciples, If any man ²² will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

25 For whosoever ²³ will save his life shall lose it : and whosoever ²⁴ will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

26 For what ²⁵ is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and ²⁶ lose his own soul ? or what shall a man give in exchange for his ²⁷ soul ?

27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then ²⁸ he shall reward every man according to his ²⁹ works.

28 Verily I say unto you, There be some ³⁰ standing here, which shall ³¹ not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



Head of Peter

Time and Place—Autumn, A.D. 29, soon after the last Lesson; near Cæsarea Philippi, a city at the foot of Mount Hermon at the main source of the Jordan.

Connection—The intervening events are the healing of a deaf and dumb man in Decapolis (Mark 7 : 31-37); the feeding of the 4,000 (Matt. 15: 32-39); the demand of the Pharisees for a sign

(Mark 8 : 10-12); the healing of a blind man (Mark 8 : 22-26); and a visit to Jerusalem, John 7 : 2 to 10 : 21. Our Lord's great question and Peter's answer mark a turning point in His life and ministry.

I. A GREAT CONFESSION.—13, 14. Coasts (Rev. Ver., "parts") of Cæsarea Philippi. This city (for situation, see Time and Place) was enlarged and beautified by Herod Philip and named after the emperor and himself. Asked his disciples; seeking to know how much of His teaching they understood. Whom do men say? The great Teacher would make the truth about Himself clearer by contrasting it with the wrong or confused notions of men. Son of man; the title Daniel (ch. 7 : 13) gives to the coming glorious Messiah. John the Baptist. So Herod thought, Mark 6 : 14. Elias; whose return was expected by the Jews (see Mal. 4 : 5). Jeremias, etc. Jesus' words and works brought to mind these great men.

15, 16. Whom say ye? The "ye" is very emphatic. Do ye see only as other men see, or more clearly? Simon Peter answered; speaking for all the apostles. He was ever the foremost to speak. The Christ; Greek for Messiah, both words meaning "anointed," set apart to some holy work by anointing. The Son of the living God. This confession is the core of Christian doctrine, and the first essential of the Christian life, 1 John 5 : 1.

II. A GREAT COMMISSION.—17-20. Blessed art thou. Peter had won the holy joy of knowing the truth about Jesus. Simon Bar-jona; that is, son of John. Flesh and blood, etc.; an expression including all human knowledge and wisdom. Not through these had Peter's knowledge come. My Father . . in heaven; who alone can reveal the Son (see ch. 11 : 27). Thou art Peter; meaning a rock. Through their confession, Peter and the other apostles became the first Christians, built upon Christ, the great Foundation, Eph. 2 : 20. There is no other foundation, 1 Cor. 3 : 11. Build my church; made up of all who believe in Jesus as the Messiah. Gates of hell, etc. Satan's kingdom is pictured as a mighty city with strong gates. Keys of the kingdom. Faith was for the Twelve the key opening the door into the kingdom. A like faith will open the door for all. Bind on earth . . bound in heaven, etc. Binding and loosing are Eastern forms of expression for forbidding and permitting. Anything forbidden or permitted by the apostles, as long as they acted in the spirit of this their confession of the Christ, would be sanctioned in heaven. Tell no man; not yet. They did not yet know the whole truth about Himself and His work.

III. A GREAT PREDICTION.—21-23. Jesus