

## Fourth Quarter : Studies in the Lives of Peter and John

**LESSON FOREWORD**—It is the truth which Jesus himself is, in his divine personality and his redemptive office, that makes the gospel. Therefore the test of the disciples' progress in training must not be judged merely by truths they learned from the lips of Jesus, but by the truth they saw in Jesus himself. We see, therefore, how important is Jesus' question and Peter's answer.

Lesson VI.

**PETER'S GREAT CONFESSION**

November 9, 1919

**THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Matt. 16 : 13-24.

13 When Je'sus came into the coasts of Cæsar'ea Philip'pi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am ?

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

15 He saith unto them, But 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 Barjo'na : for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

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

19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven : and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth

**GOLDEN TEXT**—Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.—Matt. 16 : 16.

shall be bound in heaven : and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

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

21 From that time forth began Je'sus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jeru'salem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

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

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

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

**SENIOR AND HOME DEPARTMENT TOPIC**—The Messiahship of Jesus. **ADDITIONAL MATERIAL**—Isa. 9 : 1-6 ; 11 : 1-10 ; 49 : 1-6 ; 52 : 13 to 5C : 12 ; Matt. 2 : 1-6 ; 26 : 63, 64 ; Luke 24 : 25-27, 44-47 ; John 1 : 41, 49 ; 4 : 25, 26.

**THE LESSON EXPLAINED**

**CHRIST GIVING THE KEYS TO PETER**

**I. P E T E R'S FAITH.**—13-16. *Into the coasts ; into the neighborhood. Cæsar'ea Philippi : a city at the foot of Mount Hermon, near the Jordan's source. Whom do men say. What do*

*the weeping prophet. Whom say ye. The first question was only a threshold one. This is the vital one. It is only our estimate of Jesus that matters to us. The disciples must have a true estimate of Jesus, but Jesus wishes them to form that for themselves. Simon Peter answered. Once again the spokesman. Thou art the Christ ; a divine redeemer. The soul of Peter's answer is that earth cannot explain Jesus. Only the divine and heavenly can. His greatness is not of man, but of God.*

**II. PETER'S AUTHORITY.**—17-20. *Flesh and blood hath not revealed. Peter had not learned who Jesus was from human lips. God's spirit working within had revealed it to his heart. Thou art Peter. Peter's answer had made him worthy of his new name. He is a rocklike man. Upon this rock ; on the rock-like truth of Christ's divinity and Messiahship which had made Simon to be Peter, the rock-like man. Build my church. The church's foundation is the divinity of Jesus. Gates of hell shall not prevail. Evil is powerless against a church founded on this truth. Give . . . the keys ; the emblem of power.*

think of me ? John . . . Elias . . . Jeremias. The people thought he was some great one come to life. Jesus' note of authority reminded some of John the Baptist, or Elijah. His tenderness made some think of Jeremias.