

LESSON IV.

PETER'S CONFESSION AND CHRIST'S REBUKE

July 22, 1900

Matt. 16: 13-26. Commit to memory vs. 24-26. Read Mark 7: 31 to 8: 30.

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

14 And they said, *Some say⁵ that thou art John the Baptist: some, ⁶ Elias; and others, ⁷ Jeremi'as, or one of the prophets.*

15 He saith unto them, But ⁸ 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 Bar-jo'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 ¹⁰ 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 ¹¹ his disciples that they should

Revised Version.—Now when: ² Parts; ³ Who; ⁴ Margin, I the Son of man am? ⁵ On it that thou art; ⁶ Elijah; ⁷ Jeremias; ⁸ Also say; ⁹ Hades; ¹⁰ Omit and; ¹¹ The; ¹² Omit Jesus; ¹³ Omit forth; ¹⁴ Margin, God have mercy on thee; ¹⁵ Never; ¹⁶ A stumbling block; ¹⁷ Mindest; ¹⁸ Omit that be; ¹⁹ the things of men, ²⁰ Would; ²¹ Margin soul; ²² Shall; ²³ Shall a man be; ²⁴ Forfeits his life, Margin, soul; ²⁵ Life, Margin, soul.

EXPLANATION

Connection.—From the borders of Tyre and Sidon, Jesus went to the further side of the Lake, and then northward. This epoch-making conversation took place on the way.

13, 14. Coasts; neighborhood. Cæsaræa Philippi; capital of the dominions of Philip the Tetrarch, beautifully situated on the southern slope of snow-capped Mount Hermon. Jesus wished to be alone with His disciples. **Whom do men say?** He desired now to make His disciples perfectly clear as to who and what He was. **The Son of man;** a title frequently applied to Himself by Christ, but never by the apostles. **Some say.** The common expectation was that one of the prophets would come before and announce the Messiah.

15, 16. Whom say ye? Jesus expects a clearer knowledge in the disciples. **Simon Peter;** the spokesman, as always, for the Twelve. **Thou art the Christ;** the expected Messiah. "Christ" is Greek, and "Messiah" Hebrew, for "Anointed." Prophets, priests and kings were set apart by anointing. This was the first public confession of the Christ-hood of Jesus by the disciples as a whole, **The Son of the living God;** and therefore Himself the God and giver of life.

17-19. Bar-jona; the son of Jonah. **Flesh and blood;** human knowledge. **But my Father;** whom Christ came to reveal, and who, in turn, alone can reveal Christ truly to men. **Thou art Peter.** The Church of Rome, from this verse, claims that Peter stood for Christ on earth, and that the Pope is His successor. The true view seems to be as follows: "Peter" means "rock-man." (John 1: 42.) **Upon this rock,** i.e., on

tell no man that he was ¹² Je'sus the Christ.

21 From that time ¹³ forth began Je'sus to show 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 Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, ¹⁴ 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, Satan: thou art ¹⁵ an offence unto me: for thou ¹⁶ savourest not the things ¹⁷ that be of God, but ¹⁸ those that be of men.

24 Then said Je'sus unto his disciples, If any man ¹⁹ will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

25 For whosoever ²⁰ will save his ²¹ life shall lose it: and whosoever ²² will lose his ²³ life for my sake shall find it.

26 For what ²⁴ is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and ²⁵ lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his ²⁶ soul?

Peter as confessing that Jesus is the Christ. Peter stood for the Twelve. Christ Himself was "the chief corner stone"; the apostles were foundation stones. (Eph. 2: 20; Rev. 21: 14.) **My church;** no human organization, but the great spiritual temple, made up of believers. (1 Pet. 2: 4, 5.) **Gates of hell;** i.e., Hades (Rev. Ver.), the kingdom of death. "Gates" is an Oriental expression for court, throne, power. The Church is indestructible.

Will give unto thee; as the first among and the representative of the Twelve. The others were included in Matt. 18: 18; John 20: 23. **Keys of the kingdom.** Peter and the apostles were to open the truths of the kingdom of heaven. **Bind; loose;** forbid, allow; as if Christ spoke through them.

20, 21. Began Jesus to show; Christ's first plain announcement of His death.

22, 23. Peter . . . began to rebuke him. Poor, impetuous Peter, the unexpected announcement of v. 21 had upset him. It was the devil's chance to tempt, and he took full advantage of it. **Get thee behind me, Satan.** Peter, and Satan in him, were repeating the temptation of Matt. 4: 8, 9. Hence the vehemence of Jesus' words.

24-26. Take up his cross. Discipleship calls for self-denial, even to the extent of following Jesus to the death. **Save his life . . . lose it . . . lose his life . . . find it.**

"He that findeth the life of external comfort and pleasure, shall lose the eternal life of spiritual joy" (Camb. Bible); and *vice versa*. **Lose his own soul;** his "life" (Rev. Ver.), i.e., life in its highest phase. The man who sells himself at however great a price, has been tricked into a foolish bargain.