

**INTRODUCTION**

- \* "Focusing on the Messiah in the book of Matthew." Matthew was a Jewish man writing to a Jewish audience and giving testimony regarding the life and ministry of the Messiah who had been foretold by many of the Jewish prophets.
- \* Throughout Jesus' teaching and ministry, He had been calling upon people to change the way they were thinking.
- \* A couple weeks ago we saw Jesus declare clearly that He was the Lord of the Sabbath and that He was greater than the Temple.
- \* Did His disciples get it? Today, we find out what they are beginning to understand and the struggles that they have as He challenges their traditions.
- \* Jesus takes His disciples on another journey this time toward Caesarea-Philippi (Panea) ....

**INSTRUCTION****I. THE I \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE MESSIAH (v. 13-20)****A. The Opinion of the W \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 13-14)****B. The Opinion of the D \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 15-20)**

## 1. PETER'S RESPONSE:

## 2. JESUS' RESPONSE: "Blessed are you, Simon son-of-Jonah"

a. The I \_\_\_\_\_ of Peter (cf. John 1:42)

b. The F \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church

i. *FAITH* (cf. John 14:6; Acts 4:11-12; John 8:24, 56-58)ii. *PETER* (cf. Ephesians 2:19-20; John 21:15-19; Acts 2:14)

c. The P \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church

d. The A \_\_\_\_\_ of Peter

i. *THE CONDEMNATION OF SIN* (cf. Acts 5:1-11)ii. *THE AUTHENTICATION OF SALVATION* (cf. Acts 2:37-40; 8:14-23; 10:34-48)**II. THE D \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE MESSIAH (v. 21-23)****A. Christ's R \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 21)****B. Peter's R \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 22)****C. Christ's R \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 23)**

## 1. THE OFFENSE TO THE MESSIAH

## 2. THE INFLUENCE OF THE WORLD

**III. THE C \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE MESSIAH (v. 21-23)****A. The P \_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_ of His Followers (v. 24-26)****B. The F \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_ of His Followers (v. 27-28)**

## 1. AT THE RETURN OF CHRIST

## 2. IN ACCORDANCE TO THEIR WORKS (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:1-11)

## INTROSPECTION

\* WHO DO YOU SAY THAT JESUS IS?

WHAT DOES YOUR LIFE REVEAL?

\* HOW EFFECTIVELY ARE YOU TAKING UP *YOUR CROSS*?

\* WHAT IS YOUR GOAL IN LIFE?

ARE YOU TRYING TO GATHER UP AS MUCH OF THE WORLD AS YOU CAN?

\* IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND THEREFORE ACT?

## INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

*It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.*

\* Read Matthew 18:15-20. How does this passage tie in with Jesus' statement to Peter (Matt 16:19)?