



**DISCIPLES OF JESUS**  
**“Disciples and the Church” Matthew 16:13–20**

No. 6322

Stuart Briscoe

The disciples of Jesus were on a steep learning curve. They were still creatures of their culture, prone to misunderstandings (see 16:1-12f). But the Teacher was training them – none more so than Simon Peter who was about to make some great discoveries.

**I. Jesus Asks Some Questions. vv. 12–15**

- A. What have you been hearing about people’s perceptions of the Son of Man?
- B. Now YOU tell me what conclusions you have reached concerning me?
  - 1. He expected them to have a clear understanding based on faith. vv. 8-9
  - 2. He wanted to hear them articulate it clearly.

**II. Peter Answers the Question. vv. 15-16**

- A. You are Christ (Anointed One, Psalm 2:2); Son of living God
- B. The answer is correct but not of human calculation but of divine revelation.
- C. Peter has been “blessed” as the recipient of a divinely imparted insight.

**III. Jesus Elaborates His Plans. vv. 17–20**

- A. Jesus employs a pun! You are “*Kepa*” (Aram.Rock) also a recognized name.
- B. *Kepa* = *Kephas* (Gk.) = (Cephas Eng. see John 1: 42) = *Petros* (Gk. Stone)
- C. On this *Petra* (Gk. Rock) I will build my church.
  - 1. Peter as the first among the Apostles (Ephesians 2:19-20)
  - 2. Jesus the Messiah plans a Messianic Community – the Church.
  - 3. “Church “ (Gk. *Ekklesia* from *ekklareo* = call out)
  - 4. *Ekklesia* in LXX = *qahal* = assembly, gathering (Psalm 22:22; Acts 7:38)
  - 5. Church = a gathering (community) of the called.
  - 6. Jesus makes a powerful claim – it is “My” church.
  - 7. He proposes to build it! – His people are his artisans.
  - 8. Death (Gates of Hades) of Jesus, apostles, martyrs natural death....
  - 9. Will not triumph – Messiah’s community will!

**IV. Reflections for the Contemporary Church.**

- A. Can I, do I confess Christ?
- B. Do I recognize his call on my life?
- C. Am I intentionally identified with /in the community of the called?
- D. Am I confident that Messiah’s community will triumph over death?
- E. Do I cherish the church as His not mine/ ours?