

## SHAKEN BY JESUS' REBUKE

**Matthew 16: 13-18, 20-23** MSG

**Opening:** Church sign in Manorville: *As long as there are tests in school, there will be prayer*

Today's Message is Entitled Shaken by Jesus' Rebuke but it could be called **Testing Time**

Testing is a part of teaching ... something I did regularly over a 33 year career

Testing isn't fun for teachers or students –

Ask any kid or adult – you'll never hear them say, *"I want a test today"*

1. Anxiety for students when taking them –
2. Anxiety for teachers when correcting them

Essays were my least favorite thing ... but some answers were unforgettable

One student in answering a longitude and latitude essay – referred to the equator as a LION that *ran* around the earth ... You can't make this stuff up

Testing is sometimes painful but necessary – for both school and life

### **Matthew 16: 13 -15**

Matthew's account begins outside the city Caesarea Philippi, in an out of the way outpost for Roman soldiers that had temples and alters to a pantheon of their gods.

Among all the pagan shrines Jesus gives his disciples a two question pop quiz –

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

Before we check their answer, let's check the context – what lead up to this?

Earlier in the same chapter –

Jesus is the one being grilled by the religious order of Pharisees and Sadducees, they demanded He tell them who He really is – and then to back it up with a sign ... a miracle

They weren't really asking him they were telling him if you are the one sent from God – prove it and maybe we'll believe you.

<sup>1-4</sup> Some Pharisees and Sadducees were on him again, pressing him to prove himself to them. He told them, "You have a saying that goes, 'Red sky at night, sailor's delight; red sky at morning, sailors take warning.' You find it easy enough to forecast the weather—why can't you read the signs of the times? An evil and wanton generation is always wanting signs and wonders. The only sign you'll get is the Jonah sign." Then he turned on his heel and walked away. MSG

It's after that encounter that Jesus shakes the dust off his feet and sails to the region of Caesarea – Philippi, looking for an out of the way outpost city used by Roman soldiers. A place loaded with pagan temples and altars.

He wanted the proper setting for his quiz.

**Matt 16:13** ... <sup>13</sup> Jesus ... asked his disciples, "What are people saying about who the Son of Man is?"

The question is easy; NO worries about giving the wrong answer because there's no right or wrong answer. It's a matter of opinion

**The #1** fear children, teens and adults face in a classroom setting? Embarrassment

Jesus asked ... *Who do people say that I am?* No pressure, no right or wrong answer ... The disciples call out their *gallop poll* responses

<sup>14</sup> They replied,

1. John the Baptizer
2. Elijah
3. Jeremiah
4. One of the other prophets

Then Jesus asks the second question ...

<sup>15</sup> He pressed them, "And how about you? Who do you say I am?"

That's the real question isn't it?

If the Holy Spirit were to put that question to you in front of others? How would you respond?

Would your answer depend on whether you were surrounded by believers or people that made no allegiance to Christ?

### **Story** –Courage

The Party was in full swing. Speeches were being made by the captain, the crew and the guests enjoying the week-long voyage. Sitting at the head table was a seventy-year-old man who, somewhat embarrassed, was doing his best to accept the praise being poured on him.

Earlier that morning a young woman had fallen overboard, and within seconds the older man was in the cold, dark waters at her side. The woman was rescued and the man became an instant hero.

When the time finally came for the brave passenger to speak, the stateroom fell into a hush as he rose from his chair. He went to the microphone and, in what was probably the shortest “hero’s” speech ever offered, spoke these stirring words: “I just want to know one thing - who pushed me?”

Peter didn't hesitate, with all those pagan shrines surrounding them he answered with boldness:  
<sup>16</sup>... “You're the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

You're the one Jesus – the Real Deal! The Son of the Living God! (not like these stone cold lifeless gods)

**Last Sunday** Yelssy Manza, the Nazarene Director of Missions for all of the 129 churches in the district shared progress on the mission work in Haiti and her passion for missions in general

She was vivacious, compassionate, spellbinding and vibrant full of the Holy Spirit

She asked a question that's stayed with me all week – *If the doors of this church were to close tomorrow would any of your neighbors notice or care?*

It challenged me – What kind of a difference is we making in the world around us? For the community here in Patchogue, where we live, where we work?

☆Ken Kreamer told me about Mike – a painter who we worked with while we were still deciding the seating issue for Operation Face Lift our sanctuary renewal project

Mike was here with his three girls – the middle one Grace has been struck down with paralysis wheel chair bound –

I called promising prayer and the support of our church. After the East End Wednesday evening Bible group met, I texted him to let him know we had prayed for a miracle for Grace and for his family. (Will you join us in that prayer for a miracle for Grace?)

Mike was very grateful and shared that it was the first time in 4 months that anyone had contacted him.

People need the friendship of God! It can only come from your compassion for them. We can be the point of contact for God to reach them!

Max Lucado expert from, *Outlive Your Life*

God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called. Don't let Satan convince you otherwise. He will tell you that God has an IQ requirement or an entry fee. That he employs only specialists and experts, governments and high powered personalities. When Satan whispers such lies, dismiss him with this truth: God stampeded the first-century society with swaybacks, not thoroughbreds. Their collars were blue, and their hands were calloused, and there is no evidence that Jesus chose them because they were smarter or nicer than the guy next door. The one thing they had going for them was a willingness to take a step when Jesus said "follow me."

Are you more blue jeans than blue blood? Congratulations. God changes the world with folks like you.

While 11 other disciples held their lounge, Peter stated affirmatively - ***You're the Messiah, the Son of the living God.***

Matthew doesn't mention Jesus facial expression but I'm guessing He was smiling from ear to ear – listen to His response:

<sup>17-18</sup> ... "God bless you, Simon, son of Jonah! You didn't get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this **secret** of who I really am. And now I'm going to tell you who you are, *really* are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.

<sup>20</sup> He swore the disciples to secrecy. He made them promise they would tell no one that he was the Messiah.

Jesus is excited, Peter is elated and the 11 are sitting there mouths hanging open.

God Bless you Simon because ... The only way you could have known this is for God to have revealed it to you (*Word of Knowledge*) Now let me reveal to you who you really are and what God's plans are for you!

God desires to tell you who you really are and how you fit into His plan but He can't do that until you understand who He is?

**Which brings us back to Jesus 2<sup>nd</sup> question ... Who do you say that I Am?**

You can only give the correct answer with the help of the Holy Spirit ... He's the one who teaches us about Jesus – from here (the Word) and here (the heart)

Jesus changed Peter's name that day from Simon to Peter

Simon, in Greek means snub-nosed... Peter means stone

Peter went from being a common fisherman to a foundational building block

This is so powerful that he made the disciples swear to not tell anyone he was the Messiah!

Eugene Peterson writes:

The identification of Simon as the rock on which the church will be built is as unlikely as the identification of Jesus as the Christ who reveals God to us. ... Simon was also a working class man who made his living fishing in Galilee and whose emotions and loyalties changed as frequently and as suddenly as the weather.

Simon Peter was about the poorest choice Jesus could have made for building this new community of faith. And that's probably why Jesus started with him so none of us would disqualify ourselves. For if Peter was fit for the foundation, certainly there's a place where we can fit in.

If I were writing this story – this is where I would end it, on a high note. But this book is Spirit breathed so let's finish it together

### **Matthew 16:21-26**

<sup>21-22</sup> Then Jesus made it clear to his disciples that it was now necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, submit to an ordeal of suffering at the hands of the religious leaders, be killed, and then on the third day be raised up alive. Peter took him in hand, protesting, "Impossible, Master! That can never be!"

Peter thinks his judgment is better than Jesus' – something we do continually

<sup>23</sup> But Jesus didn't swerve. "Peter, get out of my way. Satan, get lost. You have no idea how God works."

Before he could take a deep breath, Peter went from mountain top to crashing rocks

Jesus calls him Satan!

<sup>24-26</sup> Then Jesus went to work on his disciples. "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. What kind of deal is it to get everything you want (in life) but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for?"

Let's entertain Jesus' question one last time. He's asking you ... Who do you say I Am?

- You want to see God thing change things around here?
- You want to see broken lives restored, addictions broken, marriages restored and children healed?

Jesus has to drive not us,

Want to know who He really is and who you really are –

Turn control of your heart over to Him –

Take off the restraints and seek Him with all your heart – this place will start to rock (Petro) with the power of God

Let's pray