

Time Audit Chronicles: Peter Declares Jesus as the Christ – The Foundation of Faith

(Matthew 16:13-20)

Prologue: Who Do You Say I Am?

The Presswood family gathered around the kitchen table one quiet evening, finishing their puzzle of a grand castle surrounded by lush gardens. Ariel carefully placed the last piece, while Alice sat cross-legged with Mr. Fluffernutter, pretending he was a royal guest at the castle.

“Daddy,” Ariel asked, leaning on the table, “how do you know what someone is really like? Not just what people say about them, but who they really are?”

Ryan smiled, sliding the puzzle box off the table. “That’s a deep question, Ariel. It takes time and a close relationship to really know someone. Jesus asked His disciples that question once—who they thought He was—and Peter gave an answer that changed everything.”

“What did Peter say?” Alice asked, hugging Mr. Fluffernutter.

Ryan leaned forward. “He declared Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. It was a turning point in the disciples’ journey, and Jesus used that moment to reveal the foundation of faith. Let’s use the Time Audit Machine to see it firsthand.”

The Journey Begins: A Question of Identity

The Time Audit Machine hummed softly as Ariel programmed the destination.

“Coordinates locked: Caesarea Philippi, 27-29 CE. Objective: witness Peter’s declaration of Jesus as the Christ.”

With a flash of light, the family found themselves in a rugged region near Caesarea Philippi, surrounded by rocky hills and distant groves of olive trees. The disciples were walking with Jesus, their sandals crunching softly against the dry earth.

“There they are,” Ryan said, pointing. “This is where Jesus asks one of His most important questions.”

Who Do People Say That I Am?

The family listened closely as Jesus paused and turned to His disciples, His voice calm but probing.

“Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?” (Matthew 16:13)

The disciples glanced at one another before answering:

“Some say that Thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.”
(Matthew 16:14)

Ariel furrowed her brow. “So, people thought He was someone important—but not the Messiah?”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “They knew Jesus was special, but many couldn’t see Him for who He truly was.”

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Jesus then asked a more direct and personal question:

“But whom say ye that I am?” (Matthew 16:15)

The disciples grew quiet, their expressions thoughtful. Finally, Peter stepped forward, his voice steady and filled with conviction.

“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Matthew 16:16)

Alice clutched Mr. Fluffernutter tightly. “Peter knew the right answer!”

“Not because he figured it out on his own,” Ryan said. “Jesus explains that next.”

Blessed Are You, Simon

Jesus’ face lit up with approval as He replied to Peter:

“Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 16:17)

“So, God showed Peter the truth?” Ariel asked.

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Peter’s faith wasn’t just based on what he’d seen—it was revealed by God.”

Jesus continued, His voice filled with purpose:

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18)

Ariel paused mid-note. “Wait—is Peter the rock, or is it something else?”

“It’s both,” Ryan explained. “Peter’s name means ‘rock,’ but Jesus was also pointing to the truth of Peter’s confession—that He is the Christ—as the foundation of the church.”

The Keys to the Kingdom

Jesus then gave Peter a profound promise:

“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.”
(Matthew 16:19)

Alice tilted her head. “What are the keys for?”

“They represent authority,” Ryan said. “Jesus was giving Peter—and later, all the apostles—the responsibility to lead and teach in His name, guided by His truth.”

A Command for Secrecy

The family watched as Jesus concluded the moment by instructing His disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Christ.

“Why wouldn’t He want people to know?” Ariel asked.

“Because His mission wasn’t complete yet,” Ryan explained. “If word spread too soon, people might try to make Him king by force, misunderstanding what kind of Messiah He came to be.”

The Crowd’s Reaction

As the disciples continued their journey, the Presswoods noticed how Peter walked with a sense of purpose, his face reflecting the weight of what he had just declared.

“That moment changed everything for Peter,” Ryan said. “He understood who Jesus was—and that knowledge became the foundation of his faith.”

Returning Home: A Question of Faith

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down, leaving the family in thoughtful silence. Ariel flipped through her notes, while Alice arranged tiny “keys” made from toy blocks for Mr. Fluffernutter.

“Peter’s confession wasn’t just about what he believed,” Ariel said thoughtfully. “It was about who Jesus truly is.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “That’s the foundation of our faith too—knowing Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God.”

Alice looked up. “Do you think we can answer Jesus’ question too?”

“We can,” Ryan said, smiling. “Every time we live for Him, we’re answering with our lives.”

Reflection: The Foundation of Faith

That evening, Ariel read aloud from Matthew 16:

“‘Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.’”

The family sat quietly, reflecting on the importance of Peter’s declaration.

“Jesus didn’t ask for opinions,” Ryan said. “He asked for faith—an answer that came from knowing Him personally.”

“And when we know Him,” Ariel added, “it changes everything.”

Alice hugged Mr. Fluffernutter tightly. “I think Jesus is the best King ever.”

“And the most worthy of our trust,” Ryan said with a grin.

Takeaway: Built on the Rock

Peter’s declaration in Matthew 16:13-20 reminds us that the foundation of our faith is knowing Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. This revelation, revealed by God and confessed by Peter, became the cornerstone of the church—a truth that has stood the test of time. Today, we’re invited to answer Jesus’ question for ourselves, declaring who He is and building our lives on the unshakable foundation of His love and grace.