

## **Matthews 16:13-20**

Upon this Rock

*Who Am I to Them?*

- I. The Person of Jesus
  - A. Perception
  - B. Reality
  - C. And How We Know
- II. The Power of Truth
  - A. The Church's Foundation
  - B. The Kingdom's Advance
  - C. The Key to Heaven

*... and who am I to you?*

### **Children, Listen ...**

1. What do some people think about who Jesus is?
2. Who does Peter say He is?
3. How does Jesus say that Peter knew this?
4. Can anything stop the work of God and His Kingdom on earth?

## **Not Mere Man's Words**

Peter's famous dialogue with Jesus and his confession of Christ is supremely profound ... and often grossly misunderstood. The first thing we must see is that while words are important, and confessing the truth is vital, words and even the sincerest vows of belief are empty and meaningless if there is no substance to them up. The substance behind Peter's statement is Jesus Himself. So, the rock upon which the church is built is Christ Himself, not just a confession. The Roman Catholic church uses this passage as a launching point to argue that Peter was the first Pope, and inherently unbiblical idea and nonsensical. Everlasting entity that the church is, it could not be headed up by a mere sinful man and 'anointed' successors. As our Confession puts it: "There is no other head of the church but the Lord Jesus Christ. And finally, consider this: The force behind what the apostle says is sufficient to advance the Kingdom in such a way that it will topple the very gates of Hell. This is nothing less than the mighty power of God through Jesus - "the Christ, the Son of the living God." Is Peter's confession your own? If so, remember, it is only the real substance behind it that brings you salvation confidence that His Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom.