

“Confessing the Faith”

Matthew 16:13-20

INTRODUCTION:

Confessing the Faith on a surgery table in hospital . . .

I. PETER WAS ASKED BY JESUS: WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

- A. Peter confesses: **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”**
(v. 16)
- B. Others at that time had many other opinions (v.14)
- C. *“Close but no cigar”* is not close enough
when it has to do with who Jesus is

II. THE WORLD ASKS US TODAY:

WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS?

- A. Correct doctrine, about who Jesus is, is very much needed today
- B. We are to *“get it straight and get it out”* [former LCMS President]
- C. Having right doctrine & not sharing it is **not** having right doctrine
- D. We, like Peter, deny knowing Jesus by word and deed (Matthew 26)

III. OUR LORD USES “PETERS” LIKE US TO CONFESS THE FAITH

- A. Jesus calls flawed sinners to confess Him before the world
- B. He sees us through the “lens of the cross”: forgiven & precious
- C. It is true for Peter & for us:
Jesus builds His Church on **the rock solid confession of the Faith... “and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”** (v. 18)
- D. The substance of our confession:
the forgiveness of sins in Jesus’ name (v. 19)

CONCLUSION: *Whether on a surgery table or in our daily lives we confess the Faith . . .*

