

You Are Peter

Matthew 14–16

What We Found

- The question you sealed in Session 1 was Jesus' own question at Caesarea Philippi: "But who do you say that I am?" Peter's answer, the Christ, the Son of the living God, came not from flesh and blood but from the Father. Right answers about Jesus are gifts before they are achievements.
- And the second half of your sealed question, how will the world come to know him, Jesus answered himself: "on this rock I will build my Church."
- Jesus taught in Aramaic; in that language the saying would be one word, twice: "you are Kepha, and on this kepha I will build my Church." A new name in Scripture is never decoration; Simon becomes Rock to become a foundation.
- The keys come from Isaiah 22: the royal steward of the house of David, an office under the king, over the household, that passes from holder to holder. The Son of David gave his kingdom a steward.
- Four verses after the keys, Peter is called Satan. The office never rested on Peter's perfection: the powers of death shall not prevail is a promise secured by the Builder, not by the strength of the building material.
- On the sea, the One who trampled the waves said "Take heart, it is I," and the boat worshiped. Peter's sinking prayer still works: Lord, save me.

Voices of the Church

Voices of the Church: St. Cyprian of Carthage (On the Unity of the Church)

The Lord built the Church upon Peter and established one chair, so that her unity would have a visible origin and sign. The primacy is given to Peter to show that the Church of Christ is one.

Voices of the Church: St. Leo the Great (Sermons)

The strength Christ conferred on Peter is not extinguished by Peter's death: in Peter's see, Peter's confession and Peter's care continue. The solidity given to the rock is bestowed through him on his successors.

Voices of the Church: St. John Chrysostom (Homilies on Matthew)

He who once could not bear a servant girl's question became, after grace perfected him, the shepherd Christ set over his flock. The change itself is the proof of what grace can build on weak stone.

Live It This Week

- Rewrite your answer to the sealed question on the back of your Session 1 sheet, dated this week. Keep both versions; we will look once more when the study ends.
- Pray for the Pope by name this week, and for your bishop: Christ sustains his Church through weak stones, and the men who carry apostolic office deserve the Church's prayers.
- Pray Peter's sinking prayer, "Lord, save me," in the moment this week when you feel the wind.

Scripture Memory

Matthew 16:16 (RSV2CE): *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

Before Next Session

Read Matthew 17–18.

Catechism References

CCC 442 · CCC 552–553 · CCC 881