

Take-Home 3: Flesh and Blood Has Not Revealed

This

Keep your Take-Home 1 sheet safe, with your guess still folded inside. We will need it.

WHAT WE FOUND

Jesus marched the Twelve to Caesarea Philippi, a pagan district built around a rock cliff crowded with shrines, and asked two questions. The poll was easy: people say the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, all compliments, all wrong, because a category is not a confession. Then the question with no hiding place: “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered for the ages: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16).

And Jesus told him where the answer came from: “flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 16:17). Peter saw the same miracles as the crowds; what he had was given. Faith in who Jesus is arrives as a gift we receive and confess, which means gratitude for our own faith and prayer, not just argument, for those who do not yet share it. Then Jesus kept the promise from the beginning: “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church,” and handed him the keys. We traced the keys back to Isaiah 22, where the key of the house of David marks a steward’s office in the kingdom, opened and shut under the king. Jesus builds on confessed faith, not finished character, and that is very good news for unfinished people.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

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St. Leo the Great | *Sermon 3*

The blessing, the name, and the keys all rest on faith that came down from heaven first. Peter is great because he received greatly; what God builds, He builds on what He Himself has given.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. John Chrysostom | *Homilies on St. Matthew, Homily 54*

Jesus took the disciples far from every crowd so they could answer freely. Thousands of eyes watched the loaves multiply; the confession belonged to the one to whom the Father revealed it.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Thomas Aquinas / *Summa Theologiae II-II, q. 6, a. 1*

The assent of faith cannot rise from human reasoning alone; it is given by God, who moves us inwardly by grace. Faith is a gift before it is a decision, and a decision because it is a gift.

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

1. Every morning this week, answer His question out loud in one sentence: “Jesus, I say you are...” Let the sentence change during the week if it wants to.
2. Write your one-sentence confession somewhere you will find it again. We are not done with it.
3. Pray daily, by name, for the one person you chose: “Father, reveal your Son to them.”

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 16:16 (RSV2CE)

BEFORE NEXT SESSION

Read **Matthew 16:21-28** and **Matthew 17:1-8**. Notice the very first word of 16:21 and what it connects to.

Catechism references from tonight: CCC 153, 424, 552-553.