



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

23 August 2020

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Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)

Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.



Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus asked his disciples what people were saying about him – who they thought he was. The disciples probably scratched their heads a bit, and looked at each other. Why would Jesus ask?

The disciples mentioned John the Baptist, and some long-dead pillars of the Jewish religion. But they knew that Jesus was different to anyone else who had ever lived. What was Jesus getting at?

The next question was even more confronting; "Who do you say that I am?" Peter took the lead, blurting out the answer. Jesus was happy with Peter's answer; partly because his answer was correct, and partly because the answer came from God – and that Peter was listening when God spoke to him.

Who do we say that Jesus is? Do our words and our actions make it apparent to the people around us?

Who is God, who sent Jesus to be with us? Who are we? To know others well, we need to know who we are. If we are in relationship, with each other, or with God, it is much easier to build upon, and deepen a relationship if we are sure of who we are.

There is a saying, "If you don't know who you are, then the world will tell you." Jesus didn't ask the disciples who people thought that he was in order to conform to those ideas. He asked instead so that the disciples could put the Jesus they knew into context. Jesus had no intention of attempting to change who he was in order to please others. His mission in life was much more important than that.

Who is Jesus for you? Saviour, friend, teacher, leader, confidante, refuge, rock.....or all of the above?

Blessings from Meg

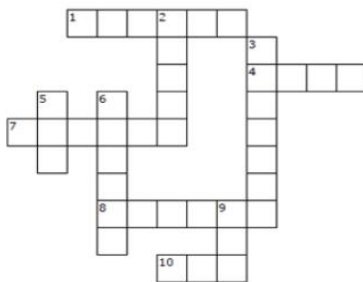
It's so easy to believe that external things hold the power in life. We think money, or lack of it, determines our abundance; we think other people's behaviour determines our happiness; we think success or failure, as the world defines it, determines our self-worth.

~ Marianne Williamson

Peter's Confession of Christ

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Matthew 16:15 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)



ACROSS

- Persons; men, women, and children; human beings
- A large stone that sticks up out of the ground or the sea
- A male parent
- The Messiah, as foretold by the prophets
- An adult male human being

DOWN

- The name that Jesus called Simon
- A persons who speaks for God
- To speak
- The whole body of believers in Christ
- A male child in relation to his parents

Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Ex 1:8 - 2:10 Psalm 124

Romans 12:1-8



..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray that Phyll Bylund has settled into respite care at Bupa.
- We pray for Patrick Johnston who spent a night in hospital earlier this week.
- We pray for the Scorgie family.
- Joyce Dowsett is returning to Attunga, and we pray that she will be very happy to be back there.
- We pray for leaders who are making decisions about Covid19.

Meg's Musings

Spring can be a fairly wild time of year, and this spring seems to be living up to that reputation.

Spring can also be a time of great beauty. I have enjoyed driving around, and seeing the magnolia trees in bloom - although the wind has probably torn many of the blossoms to shreds by now.

On a smaller scale, violets are blooming abundantly, and the first freesia in our garden opened up last Monday.

There are so many different aspects to spring:-

Young children can be quite stirred up by strong wind, and become more difficult to manage.

Many brides insist on a spring wedding because there is so much beauty around.

Spring is the traditional time for cleaning the home from top to bottom to get rid of the soot and ash.

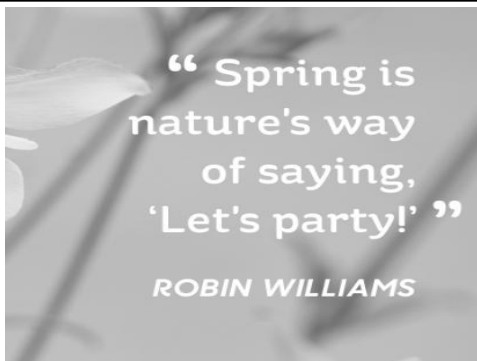
Many baby animals are born in spring.

Spring is the beginning the hay-fever season, which can last for several months.

Spring is a times of contrasts - of icy winds to balmy sunshine.... all in the space of an hour or so.

For me, spring is a time to look around and to see beauty unfolding all around me; a time to remember that God made our world, and it was very good.

Blessings from Meg



PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0466 337 005

Elders: Margaret Crowell Ross Davidson Bruce Jarrett



..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



"Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right." ~ Henry Ford

THE CROSS IN MY POCKET

I carry a cross in my pocket,
A simple reminder to me
That I am a Christian,
No matter where I may be.

This little cross isn't magic,
Nor is it a good luck charm.
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm.

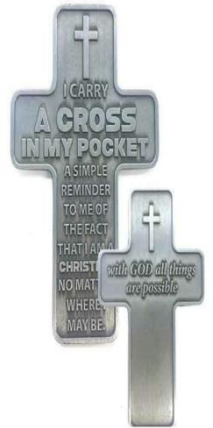
It's not for identification
For all the world to see.
It's simply an understanding
Between my Savior and me.

When I put my hand in my pocket
To bring out a coin or a key,
The cross is there to remind me
Of the price He paid for me.

It reminds me too, to be thankful
For my blessings every day,
And to strive to serve Him better
In all that I do or say.

It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know my Master
And give themselves to His care.

So, I carry a cross in my pocket
Reminding none but me
That Jesus Christ is Lord of my life,
If only I'll let Him be. ~ Vera Mae Thomas



"FORGIVENESS is God's invention for coming to terms with a world in which people are unfair to each other and hurt each other deeply. He began by forgiving us. And He invites us all to forgive each other." ~ Lewis B Smedes

The light heart lives long.~ Irish Proverb

28 August ~ Anna Davidson

31 August ~ Alan Littlejohns

