# Lesson 18 Matthew Chapter 16-17 Primacy of Peter - Transfiguration

Life in Christ: When did you feel closest to Our Lord this week?

1. A. After some initial confusion, the Apostles realize Our Lord is speaking, not about bread, but about the teachings of the Pharisees, vs.12. The “leaven of the Pharisees” is still with us in the form of false teachings. What are some false teachings we encounter today?

Matthew 16:5-12

5 In coming to the other side of the sea, the disciples had forgotten to bring bread.

6 Jesus said to them, “Look out, and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

7 They concluded among themselves, saying, “It is because we have brought no bread.”

8 When Jesus became aware of this he said, “You of little faith, why do you conclude among yourselves that it is because you have no bread?

9 Do you not yet understand, and do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many wicker baskets you took up?

10 Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you took up?

11 How do you not comprehend that I was not speaking to you about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

12 Then they understood that he was not telling them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

1. A. The Son of Man is the title Jesus uses for Himself in the Gospels more than any other. It comes from a prophecy in Daniel chapter 7 which was regarded as a description of the Messiah and included a divine element. While it can also be used as reference simply to a human being, Jesus clearly does not use it in this sense. When Jesus asks His Apostles who He is, Peter responds with his great confession of faith, that Jesus is are the Messiah, the Son of the living God, a conclusion Jesus says is a revelation from God, vs.17. What are some of the events and teachings that we have seen in Matthew that Peter was able to connect with this revelation from God?

Daniel 7:9; 13-14

9 As I watched, thrones were set up and the Ancient of Days took his throne. His clothing was white as snow, the hair on his head like pure wool; His throne was flames of fire, with wheels of burning fire.

13 As the visions during the night continued, I saw coming with the clouds of heaven, One like a son of man. When he reached the Ancient of Days and was presented before him,

14 He received dominion, splendor, and kingship; all nations, peoples and tongues will serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, his kingship, one that shall not be destroyed.

Matthew 16:13-20

13 When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

16 Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

17 Jesus said to him in reply, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.

18 And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

19 l I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

20 Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Messiah.

B Challenge Question. Vs 18 is the first of only two times in the Gospels that Jesus mentions the church. Here Jesus changes the name of Simon bar Jonah to Peter, which means rock in Greek and would translate to Cephas in Aramaic, the vernacular of the Jews in Our Lord’s time. In the lesson on the Sermon on the Mount (chapter 7), we identified the house Solomon built on a rock as the Temple. How do these ideas together with the concept of Jesus, the Rock, and the Church as the Body of Christ come together to give us an idea of what Jesus intended for His Church?

C. Shebna was the palace administrator (equivalent to prime minister) to Hezekiah, King of Judah. God determined that he should be removed from his office and another [Eliakim] take his place. Eliakim would be given the keys and the authority over the house of the King, the House of King David. How does the authority given to Eliakim by God help understand the authority Jesus gave to Peter? What is the kingdom, Peter will have authority over?

Isaiah 22:15, 19-22

15 Thus says the Lord, the GOD of hosts: Up, go to that official, Shebna, master of the palace,

19 I will thrust you from your office and pull you down from your station.

20 On that day I will summon my servant Eliakim, son of Hilkiah;

21 I will clothe him with your robe, gird him with your sash,

confer on him your authority. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem,

and to the house of Judah.

22 I will place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; what he opens, no one will shut,

what he shuts, no one will open.

1. In verses 18 and 19, Jesus explains what will be the physical representation of the Kingdom of God. How does Catholic liturgy fulfill the Jesus’ prophecy in vs 28 at the time when some of the Apostles were still alive and continues to this day?

Matthew 16:24-28

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.

25 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

26 What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life?

27 For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father’s glory, and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct.

28 Amen, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

1. A. The Transfiguration is another theophany in which Jesus undeniably demonstrates His divinity. What are some of the divine characteristics demonstrated by Jesus in the Transfiguration? Consider Exodus 34:29, Deuteronomy 31:15, Daniel 10:5-6

Matthew 17:1-8

1 After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

2 And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.

3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him.

4 Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”

6 When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid.

7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and do not be afraid.”

8 And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

Exodus 34:29

29 As Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant in his hands, he did not know that the skin of his face had become radiant while he spoke with the LORD.

Deuteronomy 31:15

15 And the LORD appeared at the tent in a column of cloud, which stood still at the entrance of the tent.

Daniel 10:5-6

5 As I looked up, I saw a man dressed in linen with a belt of fine gold around his waist.

6 His body was like chrysolite, his face shown like lightning, his eyes were like fiery torches, his arms and feet looked like burnished bronze, and his voice sounded like the roar of a multitude.

Psalm 99:7

7 From the pillar of cloud God spoke to them; they kept the decrees, the law they received.

B Identify as many manifestations of each person of the Holy Trinity as you can.

1. One of the themes Matthew is the Jesus’ fulfillment of prophecy as the New Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15), to whom God says they are to listen, vs 5. In vs 10-13 Jesus also identifies John the Baptist as the fulfillment of the Elijah prophecy from Malachi 3:2. Beyond the fulfillment of prophecy, why do you think Moses and Elijah, of all the Old Testament saints, were with Jesus at the Transfiguration?

Deuteronomy 18:15

15 A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you from among your own kindred; that is the one to whom you shall listen.

Matthew 17:10-13

10 Then the disciples asked him, “Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”

11 He said in reply, “Elijah will indeed come and restore all things;

12 but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him but did to him whatever they pleased. So also will the Son of Man suffer at their hands.”

13 Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.

Malachi 3:23

23 Now I am sending to you Elijah the prophet, before the day of the LORD comes, the great and terrible day;

1. A. The Apostles have been with Jesus for some time, now and seen many miracles. They have been sent out to the works Jesus instructed them to do. Yet, their faith is weak. Why do you think their faith is still lacking? Consider James 1:5-8 and Catechism 153.

17 Jesus said in reply, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long will I be with you? How long will I endure you? Bring him here to me.”

18Jesus rebuked him and the demon came out of him, and from that hour the boy was cured.

19 Then the disciples approached Jesus in private and said, “Why could we not drive it out?”

20 He said to them, “Because of your little faith. Amen, I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

James 1:5-8

5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and he will be given it.

6 But he should ask in faith, not doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed about by the wind.

7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord,

8since he is a man of two minds, unstable in all his ways.

Catechism 153

153 "Before this faith can be exercised, man must have the grace of God to move and assist him; he must have the interior helps of the Holy Spirit, who moves the heart and converts it to God, who opens the eyes of the mind and 'makes it easy for all to accept and believe the truth.'"

B Why do you think even the tiniest bit of faith is enough to accomplish miraculous things? Consider the first part of Catechism 153.

Catechism 153 part a

153 When St. Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, Jesus declared to him that this revelation did not come "from flesh and blood", but from "my Father who is in heaven". Faith is a gift of God, a supernatural virtue infused by him.