

## ***Three Rebukes and a Challenge, Matthew ch.16***

*(Rebuke: to criticize sharply; to turn back or keep down; reproof or reprimand.) It seems rhetorical to ask “how does Christianity portray the personality and character of Jesus?” It is difficult to recall any characterization which portrays him as harsh, critical, judgmental, or accusative. Yet – aside from his sermons, the gospel dialogues often find him in sharp debates and harsh criticism, not only of his arch-adversaries, the Pharisees, but also of those closest to him. In this passage we find him confronting all these, and then to top it off, he turns up the heat on the cost of following him.*

### **Three dialogues, three rebukes**

#### **The Pharisees and the Sadducees, v.1-4.**

- Ordinarily foes, they joined forces to test Jesus.
  - “Show us a sign.” \_\_\_\_\_
- The response
  - You presume to predict the weather, but you fail to pay attention to the signs surrounding you. \_\_\_\_\_
  - The “signs of the times.” \_\_\_\_\_
- The offense
  - An “evil and adulterous” generation wants to see another miracle. \_\_\_\_\_

#### **The disciples, v.5-12.**

- Confused over Jesus’ remark regarding the “leaven” of the Pharisees.
  - They had forgotten to bring bread with them, and thought perhaps Jesus was upset because of it. \_\_\_\_\_
  - They did not listen well. \_\_\_\_\_
- The offense
  - Though they had seen miracles, they still lacked faith that Jesus could do more. \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Peter, v.13-23.**

- The dialogue between Jesus and Peter.
  - Many speculate about who I am, but what do you believe?
  - “You are the Messiah.” \_\_\_\_\_

- “Simon, you are blessed, because this has been revealed to you by the Holy Spirit. \_\_\_\_\_
- The establishment of the “Church,” (Ecclesia.)
  - “Petros” (stone) and “Petra” (Rock.) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Bound and loosed on earth and in heaven, a confusing proposition. \_\_\_\_\_
- Peter’s offense.
  - Presuming to have authority over Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Setting his mind on man’s interest, not God’s. \_\_\_\_\_

#### **The price of discipleship, v.24-28.**

- The details.
  - Self-denial and cross-bearing. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Losing one’s life to find it. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Are the comforts and wealth of this earthly life worth the price of one’s eternal soul? \_\_\_\_\_
- The promise of the judgment.
  - The Son of Man shall come in glory. \_\_\_\_\_
  - And “every man” will be judged for his deeds. \_\_\_\_\_
- The test of our faith.
  - Are we willing to sacrifice our earthly ambitions for the promise of eternity? \_\_\_\_\_
- The promise that some of the disciples will see the Son of Man in his glory, v.28. \_\_\_\_\_

#### **This is a truly big “OMG” proposition**

- As in the Beatitudes, this overturns the normal rules.
  - Do not seek that which serves self: ambition, comfort, safety, recognition, prosperity. \_\_\_\_\_
- What do you say to “*whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it*”? \_\_\_\_\_
- How important is your life and lifestyle to you? \_\_\_\_\_

***Is this call from Jesus important enough to be considered true? Or is it just one of those impossible propositions that we are to ponder for our spiritual growth? After all, we’ve already attained the salvation of our immortal being, so what’s the big deal?***