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## Standing on the Rock for a Lifetime

Matthew 16:13-20

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The **Rock of Gibraltar** is a monolithic limestone promontory located in Gibraltar, off the southwestern tip of Europe on the Iberian Peninsula.<sup>[2]</sup> It is 1,398 ft high.

YOU, are designed by Jesus Christ to be Rocks of Gibraltar! Your faith in Jesus is meant to be rock solid, unchanging, strong and permanent. While life is going to come at you with every lie, temptation and deception Jesus intends you to be rock solid.

*Matthew 16:13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."*

His last journey to Jerusalem is at hand, and he will soon face the horrors of the cross. Over the past 3 1/2 years, His disciples they have observed Jesus as He taught and preached, healed the lame the sick and the blind, cast out demons and raised the dead But in spite of all this the disciples weren't quite sure WHO this Jesus was.

**15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"** This is THE question of the universe that each one of us has to answer. **The issue is what YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT JESUS!**

*16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.*

### **THAT WAS THE RIGHT ANSWER.**

That was the answer Jesus was looking for. Spiritual awakening is the most misunderstood truth of the Bible. Too often we teach that people need to repent, receive Jesus and then are born again. That is not what the bible teaches:

### **John 3 Jesus is talking to Nicodemus, a ruler in the synagogue.**

*3:1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

*Notice what Jesus says in vs. 3 Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. It can also be translated this way: Unless one is born again he cannot perceive, comprehend, believe in the Kingdom of God.*

Nicodemus is confused so Jesus says again in vs. 8 *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

Spiritual awakening is a sovereign act of the Holy Spirit that opens our eyes and hearts so that we might have the opportunity, the choice to repent and receive Jesus.

### **Mt. of Transfiguration.**

*This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him! Matthew 17:5*

“This is my Son. An exact DNA match.

“Whom I love” Agapetos---the highest form of love possible.

“with him I am well pleased.”

“Listen to him!” This form of listening means: Understanding. Agreeing. Acting upon. Making this your priority.

### **Preaching the word is designed for Transformation and Action.**

**The great truth:** This is the Son of God. This is the Captain of our ship He is the ROCK we stand on so that we are His Rock to the World.

### **I want to share a major truth of the kingdom of God with you this morning:**

Truth: The last two years of confirmation education the goal was personalization. That is: the goal was to get to know the one true God revealed in Jesus Christ. *John 17:3 “Nor this is eternal life that they may KNOW you the one true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*

*18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”*

The future of America and of the world is on the shoulders of the confirmands generation.

### **What about the rest of us? What is our role?**

Jesus has set you apart to do a great work for him. Today, as you make your vows before the Lord and this congregation I want you to realize that Jesus is setting you apart to be his Rock, His Ambassadors, His Voice, And his Hands and Feet in the world. I challenge you to serve him only, to love him by loving one another and to stand against evil from this day forward.