

Sunday, March 11, 2018

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## Who Do You Say That I Am?

Matthew 16:5–20

(black Bibles page 822; Children's Bibles page 1183)

Did Jesus speak literally or figuratively? (16:5–12)

- What's he doing in verse six? "Watch and beware of the leaven (= yeast) of the Pharisees and Sadducees."
- Jesus' teaching on false teachers:
  - *Watch out for them.* They will be present, they will be persuasive, they will have power.
  - *Yet he says, 'Do not pluck up the weeds. Let both grow together.'* The wheat and the tares parable tells us not to seek to coerce or destroy false teachers (Matt 13:24–30, 36–43)

Who is Jesus? (16:13–20)

- This is the key theme of this entire sermon series!

- Peter gives the options – John the Baptist (!), Elijah, Jeremiah... But when asked directly, Peter then speaks truly: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

- And then Jesus announces that he will build a community – *his* community, his *church* – around this truth

- Note that Jesus spoke to them in two stages:
  - "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Indirect, news-reporting, academic.
  - "But who do you say that I am?" Direct, searching, personal.

Who do you say that Jesus is? *Life forces you to answer this question.* You might not have had Jesus before you in the flesh asking you this question, but life throws joys, decisions, challenges, and crises at you. They ask, "But who do you say that I am?"