

BETWEEN GADERA AND CAESAREA

- The calming of the sea and the casting of the demons demonstrated Jesus's power over nature and over principalities, two areas that are out of the realm of control for anyone other than Messiah.
- After Gadera, Jesus healed a woman with the flow of blood and raised a Jairus's daughter from the dead, two who throw themselves at the mercy of Jesus for healing.
- Jesus left Capernaum (closing the ministry there) and went "to his own country" (Mk 6:1) where **he could do not mighty work** (6:5). Here, he sent his disciples, two by two, to proclaim the Kingdom to the nation (Mk 6:7-13).
- Jesus departed **to a desert place** (6:31) and was followed by great crowds. Here Jesus fed 5,000 and presented Himself as the Bread of Life. After this Jesus entered a large periods of seclusion during the third year of ministry, though he still attracted large crowds.
- Jesus fed 4,000 with seven loaves and a few small fish (Mark 8:1-21) before leaving the region for Caesarea Philippi, escaping the Pharisees, who would have "the sign of Jonah" alone for their indication that Jesus was Messiah.

PETER'S CONFESSION

- Verse 13 - Why did Jesus go this long distance to Caesarea Philippi? Perhaps because of the backdrop of the pagan temples, giving a contrast of world religions. More likely, however, it was to escape an early death at the hands of the Pharisees and Sadducees (see previous context).
- Verses 15-16 - The modern Jewish people are expecting a Christ (Messiah), but are not expecting Him to be "the Son of the living God."
- Verse 17 – **flesh and blood hath not revealed it...**
 - If this info is not available by "flesh and blood," does this require Calvinistic doctrine for salvation?
 - What was this revelation?
 - Christ as Son of God was proclaimed in Mt. 14:33, as well as by Nathanael very early on (Jn. 1:49), and would be proclaimed by the centurion (Mt. 27:54), furthermore, it was found in Messianic Psalms (Ps. 2:7).

- From this we can see that-
 - Simon Peter was not receiving a hidden revelation
 - Simon Peter was not given information that others could not be aware of or were not aware of.
 - Simon Peter was stating that which was both revealed by God in Scripture and was the only obvious conclusion to the life and teachings of Jesus.
- Anybody who reads the Scripture and compares them to Jesus will come to the same conclusion: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. It does not require an election by God to receive the revelation, it simply requires an open willingness to hear the revelation of God in Scripture.
- Verse 18-19 – **upon this rock** –
 - Literally, "You are Peter, and upon this, the Rock, I will build my church."
 - Note that Peter is masculine and "the rock" is feminine.
 - The only responsible interpretation is that Christ will build His assembly on the rock, not on Peter.
 - Note that *church* is an interpretation, not a translation.
 - An *ekklesia* was an assembly, and only later became exclusively a church.
 - Nobody in the audience would have seen this as a statement that Christ was going to build the church. Rather, they would have seen it in its Messianic Kingdom implications, as should we (verified by the "keys to the Kingdom," not the church, given in v. 19).
 - Verse 20 - This warning was to "the disciples," (that is, the 12 in Caesarea Philippi). We are not under the same warning. This verse illustrates the need for a literal, historical, grammatical interpretation (also called Dispensationalism).