



**Series:** Unexpected Messiah  
**Passage** Mathew 16:13-20  
**Title:** The Rock of the Church  
**Speaker:** Pastor JC Cooper – 11/29/2020

**Discussion Starter** – The disciples have been observing/experiencing life with Jesus for about a 1.5 years now and are beginning to understand Jesus’ role. Peter called Jesus, “The Christ, the Son of the living God”. At this point, do you think the disciples understood Jesus’ purpose in becoming human? Is this the first time any of the disciples have recognized Jesus as the “Son of God”? This series is called, “Unexpected Messiah”. How has your understanding of Jesus’ purpose changed over time? What attribute or purpose of Jesus most surprises you?

### **We Often Underestimate Jesus**

- Why might people have guessed that Jesus was a prophet, John the Baptist, Jeremiah, or Elijah? How do these titles show a lack of understanding?
- Why is it so easy to underestimate the authority and power of Jesus? What areas of your life might be suffering because of a misunderstanding of Jesus power and authority?

### **Who am I?**

- Why is the modifier, “living God”, so important in verse 16?
- Why did Jesus say, “flesh and blood did not reveal this to you”? Looking back, how did Jesus reveal himself to you? How did Jesus initiate his relationship with you?
- We worship an orderly God. Why is understanding the initiator/responder relationship so important? How does this carry into other relationships in our lives (marriage, church, families)?
- Our finite human minds cannot fully grasp the magnificence of God. How has your understanding of Jesus changed as a result of God teaching through our pastors in this series? How is this an example of God’s role as initiator?

### **Peter and the Rock**

- What does the name Peter mean in the Greek language?
- In verses 18-19 what argument might you employ to convince someone that Peter is being commanded to be the head of Jesus’ church on earth?
- Who is the “Rock” of the church? (See Deuteronomy 32:4). According to Pastor JC, what might the word “rock” in verse 18 be referencing?

### **True Authority on Earth**

- How are the “keys of the kingdom of heaven” and the gospel message related? Why might some people argue that verse 19 gives the authority for salvation to Peter?
- How is verse 19 related to the spiritual authority of our pastors?
- Why did Jesus command his disciples to remain quiet about who he is?