

*Biblical Drama based on Matthew 16:13-25**Character Parts: Narrators 1-8, Jesus, Andrew, James, John, Peter*

Narrator 1: Jesus and his disciples had traveled north to the district of Caesarea Philippi. He gathered together his disciples, and asked a serious question.

Jesus: Who do people say that the Son of Man is?

Narrator 2: Jesus was speaking about himself. He wanted to know what the crowds were saying about him.

Andrew: Some say you are John the Baptist, come back to life!

James: Other people say you are the ancient prophet Elijah. They say that Elijah has come back before the end of the world!

John: I have heard others say that you are Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.

Narrator 3: Jesus then turned the same questions at the disciples themselves.

Jesus: But who do you say that I am?

Narrator 4: Simon Peter stepped forward and spoke up.

Peter: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!

Jesus: (*responding to Peter*) Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

Narrator 5: Jesus made it clear to his disciples that only God can create faith.

Jesus: 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.

Narrator 6: The name Peter means “rock.” Jesus

was telling him that not even hell itself is more powerful than faith. But then Jesus gave the disciples another promise.

Jesus: 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.

Narrator 7: To “loose” means to “let go of.” Jesus was speaking of the power to declare the forgiveness of sins in his name. Because of Jesus we know that God has let go of our sins, and that means we can, too!

Andrew: Do you want us to let others know?

Jesus: Not yet; my time has not yet come. For now, tell no one that I am the Christ.

First we must go to Jerusalem. There I will suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes. I will be killed. But on the third day I will be raised.

Peter: (*upset*) Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.

Jesus: (*turning to Peter*) Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.

Narrator 8: Peter and the other disciples did not understand that all of this must take place. But Jesus told them that faith required full surrender to God.

Jesus: If anyone would come after me, they must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.