



(Leader's Notes)

RESPONSES TO THE MESSAGE OF THE KINGDOM

Answers to the blanks:-
Pharisees
Crowds
Crowds
Disciples

5. RESPONSE OF THE DISCIPLES: FAITH

Matthew 14:25-33

V33 They worshipped Him and said, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

V25 Jesus walked on water

V29 He enabled Peter to walk on water

V32 The wind immediately died down

2. RESPONSE OF SIMON PETER: FAITH

Matthew 16:13-20

V14 John the Baptist

Elijah

Jeremiah

One of the prophets

V16 The Christ, the Son of the Living God

MEANING OF PETER'S CONFESSION Matthew 16:16-17

POWER OF PETER'S CONFESSION Matthew 16:18-19

(You could either discuss these questions in one group or break into smaller groups.)



What do you think is the meaning of these verses? V18-19

V18 These verses have caused much discussion. For centuries some have said that the Church was built on Peter, and it is true that Jesus praises Peter as he was the first to truly understand who Jesus was. Peter would be like the first stone, or the beginning of the Church. Although Peter's name means 'rock', any Jewish person would be quick to say that God alone is the true Rock. Jesus is the true Rock. The Church would be built on Jesus, who is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, and all

those who have faith, like Peter, would become part of that Church. The Church Jesus is speaking of here, is not a building. The word 'church' means a gathering of God's people. The 'gates of Hades' or the powers of darkness will not be able to destroy this Church because it is a spiritual body of men and women who believe in Jesus. No power of darkness can overcome Jesus, because He is the Son of God, and no power of darkness can overcome us when we believe in His Name.

V19 In the Bible, keys speak of authority. Jesus was speaking here to Peter. He was the one who first preached the Gospel message to the crowds on the Day of Pentecost, and became the leader of the Church in Jerusalem. It was true that Peter held the keys for many to come into the Kingdom.

However we see in Revelation 1:8 these keys belong to Jesus. He has authority over all the powers of darkness. He delegated that power to Peter, but He has also given it to every person who believes in Him as the Christ, the Son of God. We have been given authority to bind the powers of darkness and loosen people from these powers, so they can come to Christ. Let's use how to exercise them.



How can we be more effective in using the keys of the Kingdom?

(Many different answers could be given to this question. Here are a few.)

- a.) Pray that we will have a revelation of the power of the name of Jesus. Ephesians 1:18-19
- b.) Learn to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit so we will know what to bind and loose.
- c.) Be strong in the Lord, for the enemy will try and discourage us. Learn what it means to put on the whole armour of God.