



# Daily Reflections

**February 22, 2018**

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## Scripture

### **Matthew 16: 13-19**

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples,

"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter said in reply,

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah.

For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.

And so I say to you, you are Peter,

and upon this rock I will build my Church,

and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven.

Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven;

and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

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## Our Scripture Reflection

What a loaded question Jesus asked Peter. Not only was Jesus looking for what Peter believed about Him but He was also trying to get Peter to understand what it would take for him to live what he professed about Jesus. If we call Jesus "Lord", then we at the same time imply that we are His

servants. But are we? Believing that Jesus is Our Lord means living as though He is Our Lord, Our Master, Our Christ.

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## **Food for your Journey**

If it is true that more and more our country seems to resemble ancient Rome, then like the early Christians, those who confess the name of Jesus and follow him on the way can never forget that the path led to a place of execution. Hence the meaning of "taking up the cross," not as something that the disciple seeks out; not as something into which we will later "stumble as by mistake;" but rather as an ever-present possibility that the disciple "deliberately shoulders and carries from the beginning" (Ernst Best, "Discipleship in Mark," *Scottish Journal of Theology* 23 [1970] 330). We must be faithful in the midst of a plurality of gods and be prepared to live in "holy insecurity"" (as Buber puts it) and unpopularity among a plethora of what Karl Barth called "disguised religions" out there that go by various other names - politics, economics, ideologies, fads, and fashions.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, You are my Lord! May I witness to what I believe about You when it is easy to do so, but also, when it is not. May my words and actions always reflect my deep love for You. Amen