



# Daily Reflections

**June 29, 2020**

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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

At this point in Jesus’ ministry, many people had different thoughts about who He was. John come back from the dead? Elijah come back to earth? A great Prophet like Jeremiah? When asked directly by Jesus, Peter calls Him the Christ, the anointed One sent by God to save His people. Because of his insight, Peter is selected to be Rock of the new community which will be known as the Church. Please remember, however, Peter will stumble and fall in time. However,

because of God's Holy Spirit, he will go on in time to not only witness to Jesus, but he will lay down his life for Him and His Church. Jesus saw in Peter what no one else could see!

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## **Food for your Journey**

Even when we embarrass God the most, God responds only in love, assuring us that "I choose you."

Bob Olmstead of Reno, Nevada, tells of the experience of colleague Bill Welsh, a pastor in Desert Hot Springs, California. Members of Welsh's congregation had a child who was subject to sudden seizures. These seizures were violent and painful, not only for the child but also for the parents and those who witnessed the child's suffering.

"The father and child would come to church regularly and the father's practice was to hold the child. One Sunday morning in the midst of worship, the child was seized [and] writhed painfully ... The father lifted him caringly, carried him ... to the back of the sanctuary, where he stood still rocking the child tenderly, speaking to him gently until finally the seizure relented ... There was no sign of embarrassment or frustration on the father's face, only love for the hurting child. And then Welsh said, 'In that moment, while I was preaching, I was preached to. I heard God speak to my heart and say, "That's the way I love you through your imperfections. I'm not embarrassed to have people know that you are my child.'"

-Bob Olmstead,

Reno, Nevada, 30 August 1992.

Olmstead, who ended his sermon with this illustration, only adds these words: "That is the Gospel. Amen."

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Precious Lord, By virtue of my Baptism, You call me to be Your disciple. Sometimes I ask, "Why me??" I am not the bravest or the brightest or even the kindest, but You call me anyway. Be with me, Lord. Keep me strong, and most important, holy. When people see me, May they come to believe in You. Amen