

CRACKING THE CODE

Matthew 16:13-20

I. TRUTH DECAY

- A. Jesus asked his disciples, “*Who do men say the Son of man is?*”(16:13)
1. “Jesus was viewed by his followers as a mortal prophet...a great and powerful man, but a man nonetheless. A mortal.” (p. 233)
 2. “Jesus establishment as ‘the Son of God’ was officially proposed and voted on by the Council of Nicea ... A relatively close vote.”
- B. “*But who do you say that I am?*” (Mt. 16:15)
1. “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*” (Mt. 16:16)
 2. “*Truly this man was the Son of God.*” (Mk. 15:39)
- C. Who did Jesus say he was?
1. “*I am God’s Son.*” (John 10:36)
 2. “*Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?*” Jesus replied, ‘*I am.*’” (Mark 14:61)
- D. What others have said.
1. “When you read a book and so much of it is nonsense, I just couldn’t get from page to page without throwing a fit.”(Wasserman)
 2. “It’s the only book I know that after you’ve read it, you’re dumber than you were when you started.” (Ortberg)

II. DID THE CANON MISFIRE?

- A. How did Brown say we got the Bible?
1. “The Bible did not arrive by fax from heaven ... the Bible is a product of *man*, my dear. Not of God ... History has never had a definitive version of the book.” (p. 231)
 2. “More than *eighty* gospels were considered for the New Testament, and yet only a relative few were chosen for inclusion ...” (p. 231)
 3. “The Bible, as we have it today, was collated by the pagan Roman emperor Constantine the Great.” (p. 231)
- B. How do we say the Bible came into being?
1. “God inspired persons of the covenant community to write the scriptures ... The scriptures are the infallible rule of faith and practice ...” (*Confession of Faith*, p.1)
 2. “Theologically, the Bible is acknowledged in the church as a revelation from God.” (Donald K. McKim)
- C. The Canon of Scripture.
1. Oral Tradition.
 2. The canon is “the norm, the standard, the rule.”
 3. Three criteria for inclusion in the Bible:
 - Does it have roots connected to one of the apostles?
 - Is it consistent with the teaching of Jesus?
 - It had to have widespread influence in the church.
- D. What about the Dead Sea Scrolls?

Next Week: Was Jesus and Mary Married? Was Christianity an attempt by men to gain control over women? What was the Holy Grail? Is Mary pictured in *The Last Supper*?

Prayer Concerns: *Burney Biesel, Jere Ford, Charlotte Hart, Deborah Hendrix, Mac Kerr, Joe McDowell, Anne Miller, Ann Ramsey, Mildred Sentell, Jennifer Tarpley, Joe Tidwell, Jr., Ray Billings, Gerald Borden, Sarah Clark, Richard Cole, Cledus Creel, Rev. E.H. Denman, Jr., Jimmy Eubanks, Angela Fisher, Nancy Godsey, Rob Hammond, Fern Haslop, Abby Jones, Jeff Joyner, Mary Lou Lepping, Van Lynch, Catherine Mattheus, Dorothy Montgomery, Taylor Murray, Judy Owen, Theresa Patrick, Sibby Petty, David Petrie, Steve Raines, Patrick Ramage ...*

Christian Sympathy is extended to *Steve Clark and family* in the death of his uncle, *Lloyd Frazee*, who died on Saturday, June 3.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as we sit in the silence of this moment, we hear you ask, “Who do people say that I am?” Some say that you were a great teacher. Others say that you were a great prophet. There are those who follow your teaching and admire your life, and there are those who bow down in wonder before you in worship. O Lord, we are all here this morning. Believers, would be believers, those who follow your word, and those who wonder what your words mean. Speak to us now as we wait in worship.

We each come to this moment with our own special set of needs. Some of us come in pain. Some are experiencing depression. There are those filled with sorrow and those who are suffering. Touch our lives at our point of need. Help us to feel your presence and to be able to say, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Take our weak faith and make it stronger than anything else in our lives. Give us wisdom and understanding. As you put your life on the line for us, give us the courage to live our lives for you.

Hear us now as we pray the prayer you taught us to pray ...

THE LORD’S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

MATTHEW 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do men say that the Son of man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. 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.” Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

June 18	<i>Cracking the Code (Part 2)</i>	John 1:1-14
June 25	<i>Getting Things Done for God</i> Annetta Camp to Preach	Exodus 18:13-27
July 2	<i>How Do You Sing the Anthem?</i>	1 Corinthians 12:12-26
July 9	<i>I’ll Meet You in the Furnace</i>	Daniel 3

On the Radio (1450 AM):

June 18	<i>Becoming a Man</i>	2 Timothy 1:1-7
June 25	<i>The Other Bible</i>	2 Peter 2:2
July 2	<i>The American Dream</i>	Romans 13:1-8
July 9	<i>Beginning Again</i>	Revelation 21:5