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**SERIES: Matthew (The King, His Kingdom And Me)**

**TITLE: Program 29 – The Suffering Servant**

**THURSDAY**

**OPEN**

I'm standing in a glorious spot, on a glorious day. I'm standing in the region of Caesarea Philippi at the foot of Mt. Hermon. This is where Peter made his famous confession: **"...Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."** (Matthew 16:16, KJV) This is where Jesus went up on a mountain and He was transfigured before them, and they saw Him in the glory of His coming kingdom. Come with me and study what Matthew has to say about that time.

**PART ONE**

It is here in Caesarea Philippi, the city that lay at the foot of Mt. Hermon, that Peter made his famous confession, **"...You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."** (Matthew 16:16) And it was upon this confession, upon this truth that Jesus said, **"...I will build My Church...."** (Matthew 16:18) Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone. Jesus is the One that was prophesied in the Old Testament, and now He is here proclaiming that, **"...The kingdom of**

heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 3:2) Jesus turned to Peter after this confession and He said, **“I will give you the keys of the kingdom....”** He says in verse 19, “[I will give you the keys of the kingdom]...and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 16:19) In other words, “Peter, I am giving you “keys” of authority;” keys of authority. A “key” unlocks something. A key shows that you have ownership, that you have possession. And He’s saying, “What you bind down here on earth and what you loose down here on earth, will be something that has already been bound, something that has already been loosed in heaven.” (PARAPHRASE Matthew 16:19) And He’s says, **“I will give you...,”** and He’s speaking specifically to Peter. (Matthew 16:19) Now what does He mean? I want you to look up Revelation chapter 1, verse 17 and Revelation chapter 3, verse 7, where it talks about having the “keys of David,” where it talks about having keys and locking and unlocking, and you’ll have a better understanding of what I’m saying. Just remember that keys are authority. Now when He gives this to Peter, He’s going to give it also to others. He’s going to give it to the other disciples. He says, **“...[But] whatever you bind on earth shall [be] bound in heaven...,”** already bound in heaven, as I said, and already loosed on earth, as I have said. (Matthew 16:19) Now let’s look at several passages that have to do with this. I want to go to John chapter 20, and in John chapter 20, in verse 23, we see an important text, and it’s after Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. And in John chapter 20, this is what He says in verse 21. He appears to them, so Jesus said to them again, **“...Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, [so] I...send you. And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.’ ”** (John 20:21-23) In other words, what He was telling them is, “Now you have authority to tell others that their sins have been forgiven.” (PARAPHRASE, John 20:23) In Acts

chapter 10, verse 43 it says this, **“Of Him...,”** it’s speaking of Jesus, **“...all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.” (Acts 10:43)** So what He’s saying to him is, **“I [am giving to] you the keys to the kingdom...” (Matthew 16:19)** What gets us into the kingdom? What is it that gets us into the kingdom? It is forgiveness of sins. And He says, [“And I’m giving you the authority to tell people that their sins have been forgiven, or their sins have not been forgiven.”] (PARAPHRASE, John 20:23) “Have not been forgiven,” why? Because they have not believed in Jesus Christ, and there’s only one way to get into heaven. And Jesus said it in John chapter 14, verse 6: **“I am the way, [I am] the truth, and [I am] the life...;”** and no one, **“...no one comes to the Father but through Me.” (John 14:6)** So this is what He means when He tells him that He has given him the “keys of the kingdom.” Now He goes on to say this, **“Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ.” (Matthew 16:20)** He wanted to make sure that they knew who He was. But He didn’t want them to tell anyone else that He was the Christ, that He was the Messiah. Why? Because it was not the right time. In verse 21 it says, **“From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and [the] chief priests and [the] scribes, and be killed, and...,”** you don’t want to miss this, **“...be raised up on the third day.” (Matthew 16:21)** Now what I’ve done in Matthew, next to this verse, I’ve taken a red cross, and I’ve put a red cross right next to this verse. And then I’ve put a red arrow showing about “His being raised from the dead,” “His dying and being raised from the dead.” And you want to mark that because you’re going to see it again in Matthew. You also want to mark the word “suffer.” The Son of Man is going to suffer many things. Now just stop and think the progress of what’s happening. He’s saying that He is the Christ, that He’s the Son of God, and this is the foundation, this is the truth upon which He is going to build His church. He’s going to suffer

many things. He's going to die. He's going to be raised from the dead, and we know that He's going to return to the Father. So what He's doing is, [He's saying to Peter, and then He will say it in John chapter 20, after His resurrection to the others, that they have authority, that they have the keys of the kingdom. That what they bind on earth is already bound in heaven. What they loose on earth is already loosed in heaven. So He's going and is giving His authority to His apostles because they are going to carry on the ministry. They're going to go out and proclaim the kingdom of heaven and the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 16:19; John 20:23) When He says this, and you want to mark, **"From that time Jesus began to show His disciples...."** (Matthew 16:21) He's taking them aside. He's telling them what is going to come to pass. He doesn't want them telling others that He is the Christ. Why? Because He knows that they're going to kill Him. But they cannot kill Him until it is God's time. But now He needs to do some very valuable, valuable things with His disciples. **"[But] Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him...."** (Matthew 16:22) Now He says, "I've given you the keys of the kingdom," and I don't know if Peter is feeling all this power, but he takes Jesus Christ aside, and when he takes Jesus aside, he begins to rebuke Jesus, of all things! And it says, **"...God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You."** (Matthew 16:22) This what? This suffering, so I marked it the same way: "The Son of Man is going to suffer." "No! God forbid it, Lord. This suffering shall never happen to you." Now listen to what Jesus says. **"But He turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.'"** (Matthew 16:23) You're interested in keeping Me here and it is not God's interest." Why? **"...The Son of Man [came] to seek and to save that which [is] lost."** (Luke 19:10) And He can't save that which is lost unless He sheds His blood. He's the Lamb of God who has to die for the sins of the world. (See John 1:29) Yes, He's going to come as the

King in His kingdom, but first it is the message of the “Suffering Servant.” And it’s almost like Peter and others are blind to Isaiah chapter 53. And the end of Isaiah 52 where, in Isaiah chapter 52 it says “...[My servant is] **marred more than any man....**” (Isaiah 52:14) It says that He is the one who “...**was bruised for our iniquities....**” (Isaiah 53:5, KJV) And our stripes have been put upon Him, “...**And [by] His stripes we are healed.**” (Isaiah 53:5, KJV) Healed of what? Well, Peter will tell us later we’re healed of sin. And so He’s saying, “Look! You’re not setting your mind on the things of God. You’re thinking of the interests of man.” “[And] **then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.’**” (Matthew 16:24) In other words, “Look! I’m going to “suffer,” I’m going to “death,” and you’ve got to think, not of your interests, or man’s interests, but you’ve got to think of God’s interests. And I want you to know, that if you’re going to come after Me, it’s not man’s interests, it’s God’s interests. [You have to deny yourself, you have to take up your cross—it’s an instrument of death—and you are to follow Me.”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 16:24) Once again He’s telling them the cost of discipleship. He says, “**For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.**” (Matthew 16:25) Peter’s saying, “Lord! Lord, You are not going to die. I’m rebuking You, You’re not going to die.” And He’s saying, “Listen! If I want to save My life, I have to lose it. I’ve got to lose My life in order to gain My life. And I have to lose My life in order to gain life for you,” is what He’s saying. (See Matthew 16:22, 24-25) He says, “**For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever lose his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and [loses] his [own] soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?**” (Matthew 16:25-26) And then He takes them from the immediate suffering to the glory that is to come. He says this, “**For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then**

**repay every man according to his deeds.” (Matthew 16:27)** Beloved, God knows when you suffer. He knows when you pay the cost for following Jesus Christ, when you do not compromise. He knows the pain and the suffering that’s connected with denying yourself and taking up your cross and following Him. And He says, [“I’m going to come. I’m going to come in all My glory, and then I will repay everyone according to their deeds.”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 16:27) There is a day of reckoning coming. There is a day of justice. There is a day of judgment. We’ll talk about it more at the foot of Mt. Hermon, the Mount of Transfiguration.

## **PART TWO**

Welcome back to the foot of Mt. Hermon, to the region of Caesarea Philippi. Not only did Peter make his great confession here, that Jesus was “**...the Christ, the Son of the Living God...**,” (Matthew 16:16) but something else very significant happened in this region. We know from studying Matthew that Jesus remained in the area of Caesarea Philippi for a number of days, as he tells Peter and the others standing there with Him that those that are going to follow Him must deny themselves, take their cross and follow Him. And then He tells them that there’s a reward coming. He says, “**For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and [I] will then repay every man according to his deeds.**” (Matthew 16:27) He’s saying this, [“If you will lose your life for My sake, I promise you, you will find it.”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 16:25) Because it’s in death, it’s in the cross that we find the crown. The crown comes after the cross. But then He makes this statement. “**Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.**” (Matthew 16:28) It’s an awesome, awesome statement. He says, [“I’ve told you that the Son of Man is going to come in His glory. But there are some standing here who are not going to see death until you see that happen.”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 16:27-28) Now, it’s

unfortunate that they've made a chapter division here, because really there's no chapter division. It says, **"Six days later...."** (Matthew 17:1) Mark says, **"Six days later...."** (Mark 9:2) Luke says, **"...Eight days [later]."** (Luke 9:28) Now, the eight days with Luke is he's including the day preceding and he's including the portion of the day that follows. But it says **"Six days later Jesus took with Him...."** and this is as if some of those of you are standing here, **"...Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother...."** that's John that writes the gospel of John, **"...and led them up on a high mountain by themselves."** (Matthew 17:1) I'm almost overwhelmed as I stand here at the foot of Mt. Hermon, because everyone believes it was Mt. Hermon where He went up, and where this happened. He chose these three men to go up with Him on top of this high mountain. And it says, **"And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him."** (Matthew 17:2-3) They were standing there, Peter and James and John, and all of a sudden Jesus is transfigured, and they see the Son of Man in His glory, and not only that, but they see Moses and they see Elijah. Moses who represents the law, Elijah who represent the prophets standing there talking with Jesus Christ. Is there life after death? Of course! Is Moses dead and in a tomb? No. He lives! And Elijah who was transported, who was caught up into heaven is there with Him. And Peter and James and John are seeing all this. **"[And] Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'** " (Matthew 17:4) ["It's good that You have me as an eye witness, I can erect three tabernacles for You."] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 17:4) And it says, **"[And] while he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said...."** listen carefully, **"This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"** (Matthew 17:5) "Listen to Him," it reminds me of Hebrews chapter 1 when it says,

[“God in times past spoke in diverse ways through the prophets. But now He has spoken to us in these last days through His Son.”] (PARAPHRASE, Hebrews 1:1-2, KJV) We don’t need tabernacles. We don’t need one for Moses. We don’t need one for Elijah. We don’t need one for Jesus. **“...This is My beloved Son....” (Matthew 17:5)** “You’ve said earlier that ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ This is My beloved Son. You were right and you were hearing it from the very mouth of Almighty God. And I want you to listen to Him.” And it says, **“[And] when the disciples heard this, they fell face down [on] the ground....” (Matthew 17:6)** I mean they were flat out, prostrate, before this voice that was coming from heaven. **“...And [they] were terrified. And Jesus came [up] to them and [He] touched them....”** And this is what He said, He said, **“‘Get up, and do not be afraid.’ And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone.” (Matthew 17:6-7)** Moses was gone. Elijah was gone. And who was standing before them? The One that was the fulfillment of the law and the prophets, He alone remained. (See Matthew 5:17) Now they were to listen to Him. Here He was, the Mediator of the New Covenant. Here He is, the son of David. Here He is, the son of Abraham. Here He is, the Son of God. Here He is, God Incarnate. Here He is, the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God. And they were to listen to Him. They saw Him in His glory. God allowed them this awesome, awesome experience, and yet, what would Peter write later in his final epistle when God showed him that the time of his departure had come? This is what he says in verse 16 of 2 Peter chapter 1, **“For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, ‘This is My beloved Son [in] whom I am well-pleased’—and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.’ ” (2 Peter 1:16-18)** What



makes it a holy mountain? The fact that it was set apart by God where His Son, in the presence of James and Peter and John, would be revealed in all of His glory, transfigured so that they could see Him as the coming One who would rule and reign over the face of the earth. (See Matthew 25:31) So it was set apart. It was consecrated for this purpose. And you and I, Beloved, have the privilege of reading the word of God and remembering this, that we are to listen to Jesus. Peter goes on to say, “[But] **we have the prophetic word made more sure....**,” he says, “...[It’s a light that shines] **in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your heart.**” He says, “**But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.**” (2 Peter 1:19-21) We have the record of what happened. But we also have the whole Book. And Jesus is the One that you and I are to listen to. God has spoken through His Son.