

Matthew 16:20 The Strange Command Not to Tell That He is Christ

Introduction: Jesus commanded His disciples not to tell anyone that He is the Christ.

I. The strangeness of the command.

- A. Jesus had asked His disciples who men say He is, Verse 13. (Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, some Jeremiah, and some one of the other prophets, Verse 14.)
- B. Jesus had then asked the disciples their own opinion, Verse 15. (Peter responded “Thou art the Christ,” Verse 16.)
- C. It would now be expected that Jesus would tell His disciples, “Go tell the rest of the world.”
- D. But instead He says, “Tell no one.”

II. The reason behind His command.

- A. The Jews did not think of the Christ as one who saves them from hell, but from Gentile dominion.
 1. For generations they had been under Gentile rule. (Babylons, Medo-Persians, Greek, Egyptians, Syrians.)
 2. Now they were under the hated Romans.
 3. Prophecies had foretold that the Messiah would redeem them from sin and would free them from Gentile rule.
 4. The Jews were primarily interested in being free from Gentiles.
- B. Jesus was very popular with the common people.
 1. They recognized that He was a great prophet and miracle worker.
 2. If they were told that He is the Messiah, they would try to crown Him king that He might deliver them from the Romans.
 3. Jesus wanted them to see Him as one who saves from sin
- C. Jesus was hated by the Scribe, Pharisees, and Publicans.
 1. If they were told that Jesus is the Messiah, they would not believe it.
 2. They would see Him as a deceiver and a greater threat to their own leadership.
 3. They would set out to kill Him.
 4. It was not yet time for His death.
- D. Therefore Jesus commanded, “Tell no one”

III. The situation that exists today.

- A. Jesus has already been crucified and rose from the grave.
- B. Now we are to proclaim to the world that Jesus is the Christ.
- C. He will one day return to the earth and free the Jews from Gentile rule.
- D. But what is most important is that He will save the lost sinner from his sin.

Conclusion: Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ? Have you trusted Him to save your soul?

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