

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



August 24, 2014

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 121

Gospel [mt 16:13-20](#)

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and 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.” Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Spiritual Reflection

Archbishop Fulton Sheen wrote this about St. Peter: “Of Peter the most is known. Peter is mentioned 195 times; the rest of the Apostles only 130 times. The one mentioned next in frequency to Peter is John, to whom there are 29 references. Peter’s original name was Simon, but it was changed by Our Blessed Lord to Cephas. In Scripture, whenever God changed the name of a man, it was to raise him to a higher dignity and role in the community to which he belonged.

Spiritual Question

1. What has God revealed to you?
2. How has God revealed it to you?
3. What does Jesus being referred to John the Baptist, Elijah and Jeremiah, tell us about Jesus?
4. What people say who you are?
5. What allowed Peter to be open to the Father’s gift of faith?