

## Last Week's Sermon Summary

『Who Is Jesus?』 Pastor Takaaki Inoue  
Matthew 16:13-17, Mark 16:1-8

### ① 【Why does it end with a question?】

The Gospel of Mark ends in a rather mysterious way. The angel told the women, "He is going ahead of you to Galilee... There you will see him" (Mark 16:7). The women were so terrified that they trembled and, having lost their wits, fled from the tomb without telling anyone anything. And that's the end of it. Mark does not provide an answer. Why is that? With an ending like this, who would believe in the resurrection? Even for the first disciples who saw the risen Christ, believing in the resurrection was difficult. Remember the travelers on the road to Emmaus. Their eyes were not opened until through His teaching and the breaking of bread. Mark did not want to tell people how the resurrection happened; he wanted them to know, "Who is this risen One?" The Bible tells us that knowing who Jesus is is what matters most. That is why it says, "Go back to the beginning of the Gospel (Galilee) and read it again."

② 【Answers from below, answers from above】 When Jesus went to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" (Matthew 16:13). Caesarea Philippi was a coastal town that housed a temple built by Herod the Great in honor of the Roman emperor. The name "Caesarea" comes from "Caesar" (emperor) and means "the emperor's city." It was significant that He asked this question in a town with a temple dedicated to the emperor. It was a question asking, "Whom do you worship?"

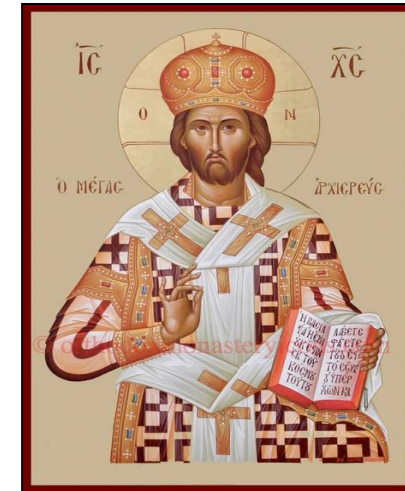
The disciples replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; Others say 'Jeremiah,' or 'one of the prophets.'" Then Jesus asked, "But who do you say I am?" (16:15), and Peter replied, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (16:16) "Son of the living God" means the child of the living God who has appeared in this world. Then Jesus said, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven" (16:17). Jesus was saying, "It was God in heaven who led you to make this confession." This means that such a confession could never be made by human wisdom or power alone. Having looked at this so far, I think you can see that there are two kinds of confessions regarding Jesus Christ. People of this world called Jesus "John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or a prophet"—but these are confessions from below. They are confessions that humans can make. However, the confession that "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" is a confession from above. This is called "revelation." The conclusions reached about Jesus by cults, Islam, and Judaism are all from below. Jesus the man was a great prophet, a great religious figure, educator, and liberator—on par with Ryokan and Shinran. However, the Church's confession is based on revelation from above. Jesus said, "I will build my church on this rock" (16:18). This rock refers to Peter, but it also represents the apostles and their confession of faith. The Church is built upon those who confess Christ as God. It happened last Thursday. After morning prayers, on my way home, I came across an elderly woman who was stuck at a crosswalk. ↗

# Weekly Report

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《Christ the High Priest》

## Miyakojima Church's 2026 Mission Policy

**Motto :** " Let us become faithful servants of the Lord Jesus Christ "

**Scripture :** " Stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord will return." (Matthew 24:42)

### Goals for FY2024

- 1 Observe worship services every week and aim for an average of 28 people to attend services.
- 2 I will make good use of my time to invite the people I meet to worship.
- 3 We don't just listen to the Word; we put it into practice.
- 4 Make concrete preparations for the construction of the church.