

## Sermon Notes – Simon Says

### Matthew 16:13 – 20

A critical piece to understanding the aim of this story is location, location, location. vs. 13

A brief background on Caesarea Philippi:

Simon Peter's response to Jesus' question stands in stark contrast to the culture he is currently surrounded by. vs. 14-15

Simon finds himself among a select group of people who have had God change their name. He becomes *Petros*. Which, simply stated means: Rock. vs. 17 – 18a

On white stones, we too shall receive a new name. *Rev 2:17*

The great debate: You are *Petros* and on this *Petra* I will build my Church. vs. 18b

*Petros*: a masculine form for rock. Means: A moveable rock or stone.

*Petra*: a feminine form for rock. Means: An immoveable rock formation or mass.

A proposal: *Petra* isn't a reference to Jesus or Peter, but actually refers to the large cliff in Caesarea Philippi.

The aim of the story: The Church was built to thrive when it is on offense.

An offensive Church has the privilege of opening heaven on earth. vs. 19, *Matt. 18:18*

Peter was the start of a movement that is supposed to include you. *1 Peter 2:4 – 12*

Possible Applications:

1. Put your rock somewhere you will see it and be reminded of your new identity built to live on offense.
2. Read a suggested book: Just Walk Across the Room – Bill Hybels, God Space – Doug Pollock, Tangible Kingdom – Hugh Halter, The Hole in Our Gospel – Richard Stearns
3. Invite your neighbors over for this weekend and intentionally build relationship
4. In your Bible, write the names of those in your sphere of influence who don't know Christ – pray daily for them
5. Spend time developing your personal 'offensive strategy'