

## Great Expectations

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" 14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. (Mat 16:13-20 NIV)

Why would Jesus order his disciples to not tell anyone that he was The Messiah? I have some thoughts on that.

Before I became a minister, I worked for several radio stations and the main part of my job involved writing radio commercials. These ads were designed to

educate the listener as to what types of services and merchandise were available in the listening area. They were supposed make the listener feel like the product or service being advertised was just exactly what they needed. Promos for coming concerts in the area or upcoming football games were designed to build anticipation. Hype; build-up; anticipation; Expecting something that is coming that will be more amazing than anything that we can imagine. Who can forget the build up to the next big Star Wars movie, "The Rise of Skywalker"? What about the run up to the presidential election? Talk about hype!

There was a lot of hype about "Messiah". The people of Jesus' day had certain expectations. Some thought there would be two Messiahs one would be a political and military leader to overthrow the Romans and the other would be a high priest to restore the Temple. Still others were looking for a political zealot that would lead the nation into independence. Up until this event in today's scripture lesson people really did not know that the Messiah was already with them. Once Peter made his declaration it fell into place; first for the disciples and them for whole world.