

¹⁶ “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 16:16-19 & 28:18-20

I Will Build My Church: Our Participation

Focus Point: *We should have an intentional, missional mindset in the building of Christ's church.*

1. Where He Builds His Church

- a) The background to Caesarea Philippi
 - Culture shock to the disciples
 - There was more than just offerings and sacrifices
 - Sexual sin and perversion

- b) Explanation of the “Gates of Hell...”
 - Charismatic interpretation
 - Gates represent strength
 - They were the stronghold of any city
 - We are to attack via spiritual warfare – offensive posture

- Non-charismatic interpretation
 - Gates represent strength and Hell is power of death
 - Passage way to the dead
 - Power of death cannot overcome church – defensive posture

- Don't throw out the baby with bathwater!
 - Not binding spirits, not that type of spiritual warfare
 - We are to take an offensive posture
 - Our weapon is the Gospel

c) A missional mindset

- We should be looking at how we can engage lost souls
 - We are the tools God uses to build His church
 - We and others who come to faith are the actual stones of the “building”

- Matt. 28 – Emphasis is on making disciples, not “go”
- Acceptable translation – *While you are going, make disciples...*
- This assumes a missional/ intentional mindset

- Jesus always had this mindset
 - Sends out the 72
 - Luke 10:18 *“I saw Satan fall...”*
 - The kingdom of darkness suffered loss as the Gospel was preached

- Acts 1:6-8

- “Are you going to restore...?”
- “No, but you will receive power...”
- For what – to be witnesses
- Where?
 - Jerusalem – Judea – Samaria –
Ends of Earth

- Samaria – they were religious outcasts
 - Vile
 - Law breakers
 - Jews viewed them in derogatory way – “half breeds”

- No room for spiritual bigotry
 - No improving morally before He will save
 - He saves by planting the Gospel and church in most vile places
- There should be no place we are afraid or unwilling to go with the Gospel

Revelation 2:12-13 – *“Satan’s throne...
where Satan dwells”*

- Here is a church planted in Satan’s back yard
- There was Caesar & Zeus worship
- Pergamum was hostile/enemies of the Gospel
- Antipas was killed there

- Jesus said we are to
 - Love our enemies
 - Pray for those who persecute you
- There should be no group that we would exclude from sharing the Gospel
- It is to be intentional and practical

2. What Our Participation Looks Like

a) Two components – Proclamation
and Presence

b) Proclamation

- Not a program/self-help message
- The message of the Gospel (Matt. 28:20)

- The goal is to share the Gospel with conversion, followed by baptism, followed by discipleship
- It is public – not limited to a church service or gathering

- Three ways we can proclaim
 - Elevator pitch
 - Short (maybe 30 seconds)
 - Sharing a brief explanation of the Gospel
 - Based on the situation

- 5 minute encounter
 - See an opportunity and engage
 - More in depth
 - Sharing the message and engaging the person

- 1 hour message
 - Lunch or party
 - Go in depth
 - More personal
 - Have dialogue with questions and answers

c) Presence

- Willingness to rub shoulders with the morally religious outcasts
 - Interacting with people who sin may even repulse us
 - We don't judge them as worse than any other sinner

- The example of Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners
 - These people did not frequent the synagogue
 - They were considered the moral outcasts of the religious
- You may have a gifting for this

- Willingness to open up our lives
- Inviting people into our homes,
our families, our everyday lives
- Point is, our participation should
be intentional

3. What Promise He Has Made for Our Participation

- a) He will build His church (Matt. 28:18)
 - All authority has been given to Him
 - He has the power and nothing can withstand Him

b) Power He has given to us

- I will give you the keys

- Authority or power

- Unlock doors or gates

- He did this with the 72 and the

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- Binding and loosing
 - Rabbinical language
 - Bind – prohibit
 - Loose – allow
- Matt. 18 vv.18-20

- v.18 – “bind” prohibit from participating in the church
- v.19 – “2 or 3 come together in my name, I will be there” – promise to stand with the decision to prohibit participating in the church

- v.20 “2 or 3 gather in my name”
 - The 2 or 3 who confronted the one who sinned
 - “I am among them”
 - This is necessary b/c some will not agree w/ the decision, it is not loving in their mind

- 1 Cor. 5 – binding or prohibiting
 - Man is sleeping with his step mother
 - Paul says “deliver to Satan” or kick him out of the church
 - Why? So he will be saved

- 2 Cor. 2 – loosed or allowed
 - Man repents
 - Paul says to restore him
- Adds he did this to see if they would follow Scripture by practicing church discipline and they did and it restored the sinner

c) God's success will not always look the way we think

- The early church was persecuted
- They may have questioned if God was indeed building His church
- But God used that to save Saul

- Once converted, Saul/Paul is thrown in prison
- In Acts 16 – God used it to save the jailor
- In Philippians 1 his imprisonment impacts imperial guard and emboldens other believers

- Mao Tse-tung persecuted the church in China and yet it grew
- We may be persecuted – how will we respond?
 - Will we cave to the pressure?
 - Will we take up arms?
 - Will we trust God is at work?

Application Questions:

- Are there people that you are hesitant to share the Gospel with based on the depth or type of their sin?
- What areas do you think God might be calling you to carry the Gospel that you until now would not have considered?
- Do you love and pray for enemies of the Cross that God will save them or do you pray He will wipe them out?

- How prepared are you to proclaim the Gospel in any setting?
- What practical ways can you open up your life to unbelievers?
- How do you measure the success of the building of the church?
- Are you willing to take “risks” for the kingdom believing God will give you His promised power?