



Matthew 16:13-23 | I Will Build My Church

Jesus continues his discussion with the disciples. First, Jesus established that he is the Christ, Son of the Living God. Now, it is time to give them the plan. He will prove to be the living God by his resurrection. And it will involve suffering.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "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."²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

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Peter went from being the rock, to the stumbling block. He rebukes Jesus - in his desire that Jesus never suffer, never be killed. At this, Jesus turns his back on him, showing Peter that he is a cause for stumbling, someone who is promoting sinful behavior by thinking only of the things of man. He is not thinking of the things of God, or the plan that Jesus has prepared for his church. Jesus has a plan to build his church through suffering, and resurrection and then through multiplication by the authority he gives.

Discussion Questions

- To prevent from being a cause of stumbling, how do we set our minds on the things of God, and not man? (Colossians 3:1-2)
- Are you willing to suffer for Jesus' church? What are you willing to give up, give away, or lose for Jesus' church?
- What encouragement do you receive from the suffering of Jesus? (Ephesians 5:2; 1 Peter 3:18; Exodus 3:7-8)
- As you consider the resurrection of Jesus, what brings you hope? (1 Corinthians 15:55-57, Romans 6:4)
 - Who can you share that hope of the resurrection with this next week?
- We are called to be ambassadors in 2 Corinthians 5:20.
 - How are you using your gifts to multiply Jesus' church?
 - How can we encourage you in your gifts to help build the church?

D&A (Discipleship & Accountability)

Break up into smaller groups for prayer.

- How is your time with God?
- What are you praying for?
- What are you struggling with?
- Who are you praying for to know Jesus?
- What gospel conversations have you had this week with someone who doesn't follow Jesus?