

Understanding

The

Kingdom

Part VII

Matthew 6:33

Key Verse:

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

*33 But seek **first** THE KINGDOM OF GOD and His righteousness,
and all these **things shall be added to you.***

Why Study This Series....

*It Is Difficult To Seek Something That You Don't **Know** What It Is
You Don't Know What It Looks Like
You Don't Know What It Consists Of*

The Proper Perspective Enhances My Pursuit

Review....

Let's Define The Kingdom of God

The Kingdom of God is GOD'S SOVEREIGN RULE AND REIGN

The Kingdom of God is where God Is King and His Will Is Obeyed

*The KINGDOM AGENDA is God's Redemptive Plan to establish His rule,
reflect His righteousness, and advance His reign in the earth—
through people who live under His authority.*

*How The Kingdom Influences and Impacts
The Culture*

*THE KINGDOM MUST BE PRIORITIZED
WE MUST MAINTAIN A KINGDOM PERSPECTIVE
KINGDOM PRESENCE MUST BE ESTABLISHED
KINGDOM PRINCIPLES MUST BE PRACTICED
KINGDOM POWER WILL BE DEMONSTRATED.*

*AND WHEN **KINGDOM POWER** IS DEMONSTRATED,
CULTURE IS NO LONGER JUST WATCHING...
IT IS RESPONDING....*

Tonight's Focus....

Keys

To The

KINGDOM

Key Passages

Matthew 16:17-19 (NIV)

*17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah,
for this was not revealed to you by man, 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."*

Introduction

Before we can understand Matthew 16, we must first understand the natural purpose of keys — because Jesus never used *everyday imagery* accidentally.
He took familiar objects and infused them with eternal meaning.

In the natural world, keys represent three things: *access, authority, and ownership*.
There are few objects in life more common — and more powerful — *THAN A KEY*.

A key is small — but it *controls SOMETHING MUCH LARGER THAN ITSELF*.
A key determines who can *enter* and who must *remain outside*.

When you hand someone your keys,
You are doing more than giving them metal. You are showing them TRUST.

KEYS PROTECT WHAT MATTERS.

Without a key, a door can exist — *but access is denied*.

AND HERE IS THE CRITICAL PRINCIPLE:

THE VALUE OF THE KEY IS DETERMINED BY WHAT IT OPENS.

Introduction

Why This Matters for Us

*It is possible to be saved and still not understand the Kingdom.
It is possible to attend church and never grasp your authority.
IT IS POSSIBLE TO HOLD KEYS AND NEVER USE THEM.*

*The tragedy is not locked doors.
The tragedy is unused keys.*

JESUS DID NOT INTEND FOR HIS FOLLOWERS TO LIVE POWERLESS LIVES.

*The Problem Is We Are Trying To Create Doors
Instead Of **Entering** The Ones We Have Been **Given Access***

*You Are **Praying** For Open Doors ~ When You Have **Keys**
At Some Point.... **Prayer** Has To Become **Pursuit Toward Purpose***

Psalms 139:23-24 (NLT)

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

*24 **Point out anything in me that offends you and lead me along the path of everlasting life.***

#1 ~ Who Was Given The Keys

Matthew 16:15-19 (NIV)

15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" 16 *Simon Peter answered*, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus replied, "*Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah*, for this was not revealed to you by man, 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."

The Keys Were Given To An Individual Who Was NOT PERFECT

Jesus does not *give* the keys to the most educated, *the most religious*, the most culturally influential.

HE GIVES THE KEYS TO PETER....

Peter was a person who *made mistakes*, said the wrong thing, did the wrong thing...

YET He Received Keys To The Kingdom

- 1) *Tries To Correct Jesus ~ Matthew 16:22-23*
- 2) *Sleeping When He Should Be Praying ~ Matthew 26:40*
- 3) *Used His Sword To Destroy The Enemy ~ John 18:10-11*
- 4) *Denying Jesus Under Pressure ~ Matthew 26:69-75*
- 5) *Taking His Focus Off Jesus When Walking On Water ~ Matthew 14:28-31*

Peter Is Not Flawless, But He Is A Surrendered Follower Who Remained Faithful

Jesus Did Not Give Keys To A Perfect Person But A Person With Purpose

#1 ~ Who Was Given The Keys

Matthew 16:15-19 (NIV)

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."

The Keys Were Given To An Individual Who Was NOT PERFECT

Compare Peter To Rich Young Ruler

Rich Young Ruler Kept All The Rules Since He Was Youth

Mark 10:20 (NLT) ~ 20 "Teacher," the man replied, "I've obeyed **all these commandments** since I was young."

Peter Gave Up His Fishing Business To Follow Jesus ~ Made The Kingdom A Priority ~ Given Keys
The Rich Young Ruler Held On To What He Had ~ He Was Denied Access

Peter Received Because He **Decided To Release**

Keys Are Given To Those Who Loosen Their Grip On Their Old System

Notice That He Called Him In **Matthew 4**, Did Not Receive Keys Until **Matthew 16**
Goes Through A Time Of

Instruction ~ **Observation** ~ Correction ~ Testing ~ Revelation

Jesus Never Entrusts Authority To Those You Haven't Been Trained To Carry It

#2 ~ When Was He Given The Keys

Matthew 16:15-19 (NIV)

15 "But what about YOU?" he asked. "Who do YOU say I am?"

16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven."

Keys Were Given *After* Revelation

Revelation Comes Before Authorization ~ He Knew Who Christ Was
You Cannot Operate In Kingdom Authority While Being Confused About Kingdom Identity

Revelation is DIVINELY GIVEN INSIGHT that produces true knowledge of Christ
and leads to spiritual understanding of His Kingdom.

Revelation Is Spirit-Given Illumination ~ "PERCEPTION/PERSPECTIVE"

You can hear sermons, Attend Worship, Quote Scripture AND NOT KNOW WHO JESUS IS...
Familiarity Knows *About* Jesus ~ Revelation Knows *Who He Is and* What He Wants Me To Do

Kingdom Access Comes Through Revelation Not Cliché's and Traditions of Men
When Praises Go Up Blessings Come Down ~ Go To School Get A Good Job

Joshua 1:8 (NLT)

8 Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. **ONLY THEN WILL YOU PROSPER AND SUCCEED IN ALL YOU DO.**

#2 ~ When Was He Given The Keys

Keys Were Given *After* Revelation

It Is Possible To Have Position Without Perspective

John 3:1-4 (NLT)

1 There was a man named Nicodemus, *a Jewish religious leader* who was a Pharisee.

2 After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. *“Rabbi,”* he said, *“we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.”* 3 Jesus replied, *“I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”* 4 *“WHAT DO YOU MEAN?”* exclaimed Nicodemus.

“How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?”

9 *“HOW ARE THESE THINGS POSSIBLE?”* NICODEMUS ASKED.

10 *JESUS REPLIED, “YOU ARE A RESPECTED JEWISH TEACHER, AND YET YOU DON’T UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS?”*

It Is Possible To Have Activity Without Access

Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT)

21 *“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven.*

Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.

22 *On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’*

23 *But I will reply, ‘I NEVER KNEW YOU. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’*

#3 ~ Why Was He Given The Keys

Matthew 16:15-19 (NIV)

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."*

Keys Represent Access

Remember Purpose: Access To Others ~ Keys Determine who may enter and who must remain outside

Acts 2:40-41 (NLT)

40 Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!" 41 *Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.*

Acts 8:14-17 (NLT)

14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that **the people of Samaria** had accepted God's message, *they sent Peter and John there.* 15 As soon as they arrived, *they prayed for these new believers to receive the Holy Spirit.* 16 The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them, for they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then Peter and John laid their hands upon these believers, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:44-48 (NLT)

44 *Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message.* 45 The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that *the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too.* 46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter asked, 47 "Can anyone object to their being baptized, *now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?*" 48 So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterward Cornelius asked him to stay with them for several days.

#3 ~ Why Was He Given The Keys

Matthew 16:15-19 (NIV)

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."**

Keys Represent Authority

When Someone Gives You Keys, They Are Delegating Permission.

You Have Authoritative Rights In My Absence

Luke 10:19-20 (NLT)

19 Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you.

20 **But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven."**

Matthew 28:18-19 (NLT)

18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and **make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

#3 ~ Why Was He Given The Keys

Matthew 16:15-19 (NIV)

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."

Keys Represent Accountability

If Something Is Misused...The One Holding The Keys Answers For It

Access Without Accountability Leads To Abuse

This is what we see in *Misappropriation Of Kingdom Funding For Personal Pleasure*

Keys Were Not Given For Us To Build Personal Platforms

They Were Given For Kingdom Purpose

Matthew 18:15-20 (NIV)

15 "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. 16 But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' 17 If he refuses to listen to them, **TELL IT TO THE CHURCH;**

AND IF HE REFUSES TO LISTEN EVEN TO THE CHURCH, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

18 "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

#3 ~ Why Was He Given The Keys

Keys Represent Accountability

1 Corinthians 5:1-8 (NLT)

1 I can hardly believe the report about the sexual immorality going on among you—something that even pagans don't do. I am told that a man in your church is living in sin with his stepmother.

2 You are so proud of yourselves, but you should be mourning in sorrow and shame.

And you should remove this man from your fellowship.

3 Even though I am not with you in person, I am with you in the Spirit. And as though I were there, I have already passed judgment on this man 4 in the name of the Lord Jesus. You must call a meeting of the church. I will be present with you in spirit, and so will the power of our Lord Jesus.

5 Then you must throw this man out and hand him over to Satan so that his sinful nature will be destroyed and he himself will be saved on the day the Lord returns.

6 Your boasting about this is terrible. Don't you realize that this sin is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough? 7 Get rid of the old "yeast" by removing this wicked person from among you. Then you will be like a fresh batch of dough made without yeast, which is what you really are.

#3 ~ Why Was He Given The Keys

*Keys Were Not Given To Lock People Out
But To Let People In....*

Matthew 23:13 (NLT)

*13 “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites!
For you shut the door of the Kingdom of Heaven in people’s faces.
You won’t go in yourselves, and you don’t let others enter either.*

*The Problem: The religious leaders created burdensome, hypocritical rules,
acting as, false guides who misled people rather than leading them to truth.*

In Conclusion....
Keys To The Kingdom

#1 ~ The Keys Are Given To Those Pursuing Purpose Not Perfection

#2 ~ The Keys Are Given When You Receive Divine Revelation

#3 ~ The Keys Are Given For Access, Authority, Accountability



February Fitness Friday

Strengthening the Body God Gave Us

— 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 —

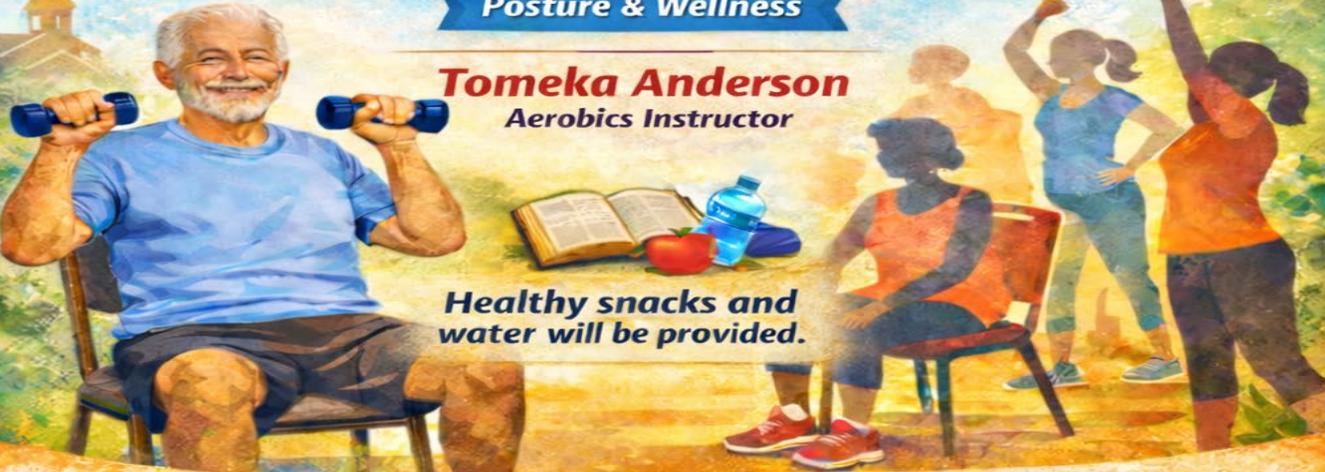
February 27th ~ 6:00 PM - 8:00PM

Nutrition Tips

Chair & Standing Exercises

Posture & Wellness

Tomeka Anderson
Aerobics Instructor



Healthy snacks and
water will be provided.

Register online: www.mtolivegreenwood.org

Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Greenwood

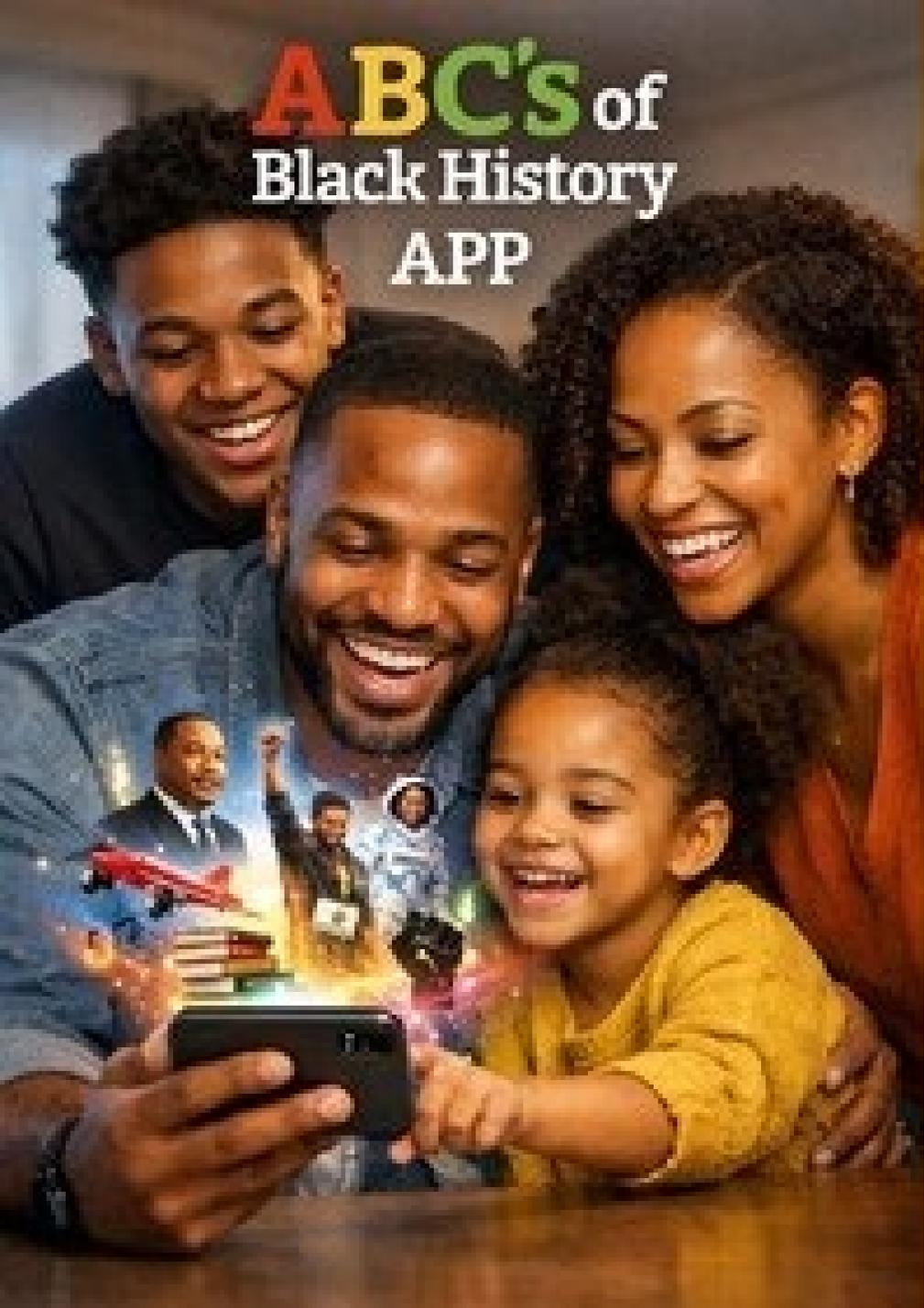
9500 Greenwood-Springridge Rd., Shreveport, LA

Contact: Sis. India Lewis – india_jlewis@yahoo.com

Please wear comfortable clothing and tennis shoes.

Come Out
This Friday

Get Fit
&
Have Fun



ABC's of
Black History
APP

ABC'S OF BLACK HISTORY IS NOW AVAILABLE IN APP FORM! 📱 ✨

I'm excited to share the release of our Digital Museum of Black History—a powerful, modern way to explore the stories of heroes who overcame obstacles, broke barriers, and shaped America.

This APP is designed for students, adults, educators, and families—anyone who wants to learn, be inspired, and help empower the next generation.

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