

Built to Last

During August our focus has been on the theme of building. It's appropriate because we're in the middle of a monumental month in the history of this local church. What we have here presently is *not by strength or by might, but by my Spirit, says the Lord*, Zechariah 4.6. Today we'll continue talking about *building* by examining Matthew 16.13-20. What is being built here is built to last. How so?

I. Understanding the Background

- A. 16.13 - Jesus and the disciples have come into Caesarea Philippi.
- B. They are there for some downtime and some personal instruction from Jesus.

II. Understanding Matthew 16.13-20

- A. 16.13b-15 - Jesus' question
 - 1. 16.13b - *who do **people** say that the Son of Man is?*
 - 2. 16.14 - they answer: John the Baptist; Elijah; Jeremiah; or one of the prophets.
 - 3. 16.15 - So Jesus repeats the question ... "who **do you** say that I am?"
- B. 16.16 - Peter's confession
 - 1. Peter: *You are the **Messiah**, the Son of the **living** God.*
 - 2. Jesus is the long awaited deliverer ... and He is the true and real God.
- C. 16.17 - Jesus' answer
 - 1. 16.17a - first Jesus emphasizes Peter's humanness... ***flesh** and **blood**.*
 - 2. 16.17b - the source: revealed by God the **Father** in heaven.
- D. 16.18-20 Jesus' church
 - 1. 16.18a - "on this rock...I will build my church." On what rock?
 - a) The rock or **mountaintop of truth** that "Jesus is the Messiah ... Son of **God**."
 - 2. 16.18b - Note the certainty of Jesus' statement. ... nothing can stop it from happening.
 - 3. 16.18c - *and the **gates** of hades will not overpower it.* Not even death...
 - 4. 16.19 - The apostles ... and eventually all believers will speak with authority.

III. What About us?

- A. We need to get on board with **what** God is building.
 - 1. 16.18b - again ... focus on the certainty: *I will build my **church**.*
 - 2. We're on board with God ... who is building His church.
- B. We need to get in the place **where** God is building.
 - 1. 16.18b - We must commit to being God's people, who live by God's way, projecting Jesus, *who will draw all men unto Himself.*
- C. We need to **embrace** Jesus' promise.
 - 1. 16.18c - Nothing is going to stop God's mission of building his church. He'll do it in ways we can't even imagine. See Ephesians 3.20-21.

Conclusion

- A. We are part of something that is being built to last.
- B. If you're not part of that ... then you can be before you walk out the door today!