

INVITATION

CHAPTER EIGHT | *STARTING POINT*

GOD LOVES AN HONEST QUESTION

- We want to invite you to a conversation over the next 3 Sundays March 12th, 19th, and 26th. Dan and Clay will be answering your questions during the 9:30am service in the Café.
- Here are a few of the questions you are asking!

HONEST QUESTIONS

GOD'S CHARACTER

- **Old Testament vs New Testament** - "Why does God in the Old Testament seem so different from Jesus if they are supposed to be one and the same?"
- **Bad things and good people** - "If God is 'good' and is 'love' then why does He allow all of this evil to exist? Why do innocent people experience so much pain?"
- **In the thick of it** - "Is God all loving, but doesn't know what's going on in my life right now...or is He all seeing and all knowing, but NOT all loving?"

HONEST QUESTIONS

CULTURE CLASH

- **Gender equality** - "If the Bible supposedly promoted gender equality, what's with all of the strange verses on women that don't seem so good?"
- **Homosexuality** - "Does God hate homosexuals...because it seems like a lot of His followers do?"
- **Free will** - "If God knows everything we are going to do before we do it, do we really have free will?"

HONEST QUESTIONS

THE WEIRD STUFF

- **Literal or literary** - "If the Bible is supposed to be the Word of God, are we supposed to take it literally?"
- **Biblical Science???** - "I'm not so sure about the creation account in the Bible or the other things that seem contrary to science?"
- **The Advocate** - "Who is the Holy Spirit and what is His role...why don't we see 'Pentecost' type gifts today?"

SERIES REVIEW

Our Intro Week- Honest Questions- Can the Bible be trusted?

Week 1- Finding an adult Starting Point for Faith

Week 2- What if the problem is deeper? Mistakers vs. Sinners

Week 3- Trust- Abraham believed God's promises

Week 4- The Role of Rules

Week 5- Forgiveness- What can wash away my sins?

Week 6- Salvation is by Grace- What is God's Gift?

Week 7- Through Faith- how do humans access grace?

Week 8- Invitation- Who's the gathering of Jesus' People?



MATTHEW 16:13-18

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

14 “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

15 Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?”

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

17 Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. 18 Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

ECCLLESIA

- ‘I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH’

- A. The significance is not in who or what is the rock, rather it is in this bold claim and prophecy about what Jesus will build.
- B. We have inherited a very difficult translation problem with the word ‘Church’ here. In Greek it is the word ‘ecclesia’ and it meant, ‘assembly, gathering or congregation.’

Jesus never predicted the building of a place, but the building of a people! Matthew was there and he wrote it down for us.

JESUS' STORY TO OUR STORY

- After these events in Caesarea Philippi Jesus goes back to Jerusalem and is crucified. And remember if you asked Peter and the others if they believed Jesus was the Messiah, Son of the Living God at that time, their answer was, 'No, because he died.'
- But something happened, God raised him, and they saw him. After that Jesus told them He now had all authority in Heaven and on Earth! They were to go out from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.
- Persecution drove them from Jerusalem. Paul too the message out to the ends of the known earth at that time.
- Come down through the ages and we arrive here, where we are today. So, this is now part of your story and it is called "Church"

YOUR CHURCH

Let's clear up a few common misunderstandings around what a church truly is.

1. "A church is 1000 people in a big building"
2. "A church is an ornate cathedral with old relics."
3. "My church meets once a week"
4. "Church is optional for Jesus-followers"

YOUR CHURCH

- A 'church' is a local assembly of Jesus-followers gathering together to carry out the plan and purposes of God for His people.
- 5 Purposes of a local assembly of Jesus-followers, church—
 1. Discipleship (deeper)
 2. Worship (stronger)
 3. Fellowship (warmer)
 4. Ministry (broader)
 5. Mission (larger)

ON RAMPS AT THE SHORELINE

1. Believe in Jesus and join the gathering of His people. Do it right now!
2. Be baptized to show outwardly the inward change of direction in your life. Do it March 26th!
3. Join one of our smaller communities
 - A. Serve around here! Jump into helping!
 - B. Step onto The Pathway. Next step starts April 23rd with “Anchored”