

The Commands of Jesus pt. 22
Using The Kingdoms Keys Matthew 16:13-19

We who love and follow Jesus have been given a special kind of spiritual authority that the Lord commands us to use on His behalf. Let's talk about that today.

As Christians, we were never meant to be passive bystanders when it comes to seeing God's redemptive will accomplished around us. We are called to partner with Jesus, to get involved and to use the spiritual authority that He has given us for His sake.

What is the nature of that authority? We get our answer in **Matthew 16:13-19**. This was when Jesus took His disciples to a place called Caesarea Philippi, it was a place populated by gentiles and was filled with all their Idols. Interestingly, it was there that Jesus asked two key questions:

First, *"Who do people say the Son of Man is?"* v. 13. In other words what is the Jewish peoples' opinion concerning who God's Messiah would be. They answered, "some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah; and still others say Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Second, *"But who do you say that I am?"* v. 15. Jesus wanted to know who His followers claim that He really is. Peter's answer was a seminal moment.

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

The term "Son of" means equal to in all respects. Basically, Peter was saying to Jesus that they believed that He is the true Messiah who is God in the flesh.

How this must have so encouraged Jesus to see how Father God worked by the Holy Spirit in the hearts of His followers to reveal Him.

This answer gave Jesus an opportunity to introduce 3 spiritual realities that He wants all Christians to embrace: 1. God reveals, 2. Jesus builds, 3. We have keys.

Matthew 16:17, Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in Heaven."

The first spiritual reality to embrace is the nature of God's revelatory work in all believers.

A person can be taught about the true identity of Christ from childhood, but it takes a work of God's Holy Spirit to reveal who Jesus really is in our hearts for true faith to be ignited. This was the apostle Paul's experience in Gal. 1:11-12, 15-16.

All Biblical truth that we wrap our minds around must also have a corresponding revelatory work that God does in our hearts if it is to be a living truth, a transformative truth, a faith igniting truth, and a spiritually powerful truth in our life.

Matthew 16:18, "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."

The second spiritual reality is that the impact of what just took place provides the rock like foundation for Jesus Himself to build His church upon.

What is the “Rock” that Jesus is referring to? It is not Peter, as some would suggest, his name Petros meaning a small stone or pebble in the Greek. The word “Rock” that Jesus used is Petra in the Greek, it means a massively huge rock. It is the same word Jesus used when He spoke about the wise man building his house upon a rock in Matt. 7.

The context of this exchange tells us what the “Rock” is. The Rock that Jesus builds His church on is Jesus’ true identity, revealed personally in our hearts by God, embraced and confessed by us. This is and always will be the stuff on which Jesus builds His church.

Notice, we don’t build Jesus’ church, He does it himself. Jesus does not build his church on gimmicks or methods. He builds His church on people who through God’s working embrace on a heart level who He really is and is willing to share Him to others.

Matthew 16:19, I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in Heaven, what ever you loose on earth will be loosed in Heaven.

The literal translation of this verse, is “I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, whatever you bind on earth will have already been bound in Heaven, whatever you loose on earth will have already been loosed in Heaven.”

This brings us to the third spiritual reality that Jesus wants us to embrace: We are given keys to spiritually secure on earth what God in heaven has already determined.

We think of a key as a simple implement to unlock a door of some sort. In the Bible, the term “keys” was a object of some sort that signified a person has the Kings authority. It could be a sash, a signet ring, a document, a scepter etc.

In the same way, for we who own the full revelation of Jesus in our hearts, we are given His keys of Kingdom authority to proclaim, to pray and to command on Jesus’ behalf what God has already willed from Heaven.

Three of these main keys are: Jesus’ Name (*John 14:13*). Jesus’ Blood (*Rev. 12:11*). Jesus’ Word (*Isa. 55:11*). The authority that these keys hold only works when we are directed by the Holy Spirit to use them.

These keys are used to bind and loose for both positive reasons and for defensive reasons. Positively we can use the Keys to bind our hearts in love and unity, or bind our children’s hearts to God’s truth etc. We can use the keys to also loose things like a Spirit of worship or faith etc.

Defensively we can use these keys to bind Satan’s work from coming against us or loose people from being under Satan’s power etc. Again, all by the Holy Spirit’s leading. We have Kingdom authority in Jesus’ name, by His blood and from His word. Let’s use it!