

“I Will Build My Church”

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December 3, 2023

Scripture

Matthew 16:13-18 (Mark 8:27-29; Luke 9:18-20)

“Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, ‘**Who do people say that the Son of Man is?**’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.’

He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**’

And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

‘I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”

Remembrances of the Last Two Years

Caesarea Philippi -> Named for Caesar because of its dedication to Rome

- 30 miles north of the Sea of Galilee
- Herod the Great’s son Phillip dedicated it to Caesar
- A Place of Great Evil
- Thought to be the place where demons kicked out of Heaven came down and cohabitated with women to create a demon race God destroyed in the Flood
- Jeroboam (Divided Kingdom) set up his golden calf for worship
- The Pagan Tribe of Dan, excluded from the future promise in Revelation, settled here
- False God Worship Common:
 - Baal Worship
 - Temple of Augustus Caesar
 - Court of Pan (town was Pnias or Banias now) – men intercourse with goats
 - Tomb of the Dancing Goats
 - Temple of Zeus
 - Children thrown alive into a cave as a sacrifice
- “What Happens in Caesarea Philippi...”
- The Worst of Satan: the most sick, cesspool of evil on the planet at the time
- “No Good Jew would ever consider coming here”
- And yet, Jesus brought the Twelve here

Matthew 16:13-14

“Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, ‘**Who do people say that the Son of Man is?**’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.’”

Jesus is mildly interested in who the people think He is

He repeatedly said to the Twelve, “Don’t tell anyone about Me and My work...”

Luke 9:21-22

“But **He warned them and instructed them not to tell this to anyone**, saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day.”

Why did He say that?

It simply was not the right time for that – Jesus would confront the Jews directly later on

Matthew 16:15

“He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’”

On the other hand, Jesus is really interested in who the disciples think He is

“Who do you say that I am?”

The Twelve is the inner group, His guys. Jesus is always surveying what THEY are thinking

Matthew 16:16-17

“Simon Peter answered, ‘**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**’ And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”

Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of the living God

Peter gets direct revelation from God the Father

Peter knew:

-> Jesus is **the Christ** (the long-awaited Jewish Messiah)

-> Jesus is **the Son of the Living God** (“I and the Father are One”)

Peter learned that he heard directly from the Father

We can hear directly from God

Do you hear His voice?

John 10:24-28

"The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. "But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."

Ephesians 2:18-22

"**Through Him** we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. So, then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit."

I Will Build My Church

Men and women build buildings and create programs

Psalm 127:1 (Solomon, **the wisest man on the planet**)

"Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it"

Jesus builds His Church

How does Jesus build His Church?

Jesus builds His church in 3 ways:

He Collects -> **The Theology of the Gift**

John 6:35-40

"Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life**; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. "But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. "**All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.**"

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. "This is the will of Him who sent Me, **that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing but raise it up on the last day.** "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

John 17:6

"I have manifested Your name **to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me**, and they have kept Your word. "Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You."

Jesus Receives all those that the Father has given Him to receive

John 3:16

“For God So Loved the World, He gave His only begotten Son”

For God so Loved the Son, He gave Him a People to Love and Worship Him

Ephesians 1:3-6

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, **just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.** In love, He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us **in the Beloved.**”

God, the Father, chose us to be IN Christ before the foundation of the world

Jesus simply put it this way:

John 15:16

“**You did not choose Me, but I chose you**”

Not only does Jesus collect His own, but He also perfects them

He Perfects → He is renovating us from the inside out

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory,** just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”

Romans 12:2

“And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind,** so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

This is a renovation work inside of us...not of the physical world, but spiritually

Let's say that you tell me that you are renovating your house

Month after month, I go over to your place, and I don't see anything changing

The rooms look the same, the walls look the same - Doesn't look like anything is going on

The same goes with your spiritual walk with Jesus

Is your spiritual house really being renovated?

2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; **behold, new things have come.**”

Sometimes we do not see the renovation within us

We need to remember the “One Another” list - Encourage one another - Pray for one another

Philippians 1:6

“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Jesus will perfect all of His chosen ones

Matthew 16:18

“I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”

Jesus is making a bit of a pun here

Peter means “little stone”

But Jesus is speaking about a much larger stone -> a rock

Peter’s proclamation, acknowledging Jesus as the Christ -> The Messiah

“For our Catholic Friends -> On This Solid Rock, Christ!

Confession of Jesus as Christ and Lord is the foundation of the Church

Peter is not the rock, Jesus is

Jesus said, “the gates of Hades will not overpower” the Church

- Cave Formation at the base of Mount Hermon
- Known as “the Gate to the Underworld” - Screams from below
- Perhaps the place of the Bottomless Pit



In war, what type of equipment is a gate? -> It is for Offense or Defense?

It’s a defensive item -> Jesus is on the attack, acquiring the souls that the Father has given Him

Colossians 1:13-14

“For **He rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son**, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Think about this:

Jesus KNOWS who His people are

Satan does not KNOW his people

He is constantly monitoring the people of the earth to keep control over them

Why have a biblical convention in Caesarea Philippi?

Mount of Transfiguration

- Some 6-8 days later... Mark/Luke -> on Mount Hermon

Jesus is building His Church by taking people out of Satan's hands

Jesus will **Collect** all that are His

Jesus will **Perfect** all that are His

He will also protect His own

He Protects -> eternal security in Jesus

Jesus will eternally **Protect** all that are His

John 6:44

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and **I will raise him up on the last day.**”

1 Thessalonians 5:23

“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

John 10:27-29

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and **I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand**. "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.”

Jesus builds His Church – and nothing will stop Him from building it as the Father planned

Jesus wants to commune with us

Listen to what He said

He prayed to the Father on our behalf:

John 17:24

“Father, I desire that they also, **whom You have given Me**, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”

Jesus builds His church

He collects those who the Father has given Him

He perfects them through sanctification over the life of the believer

He protects them from the evil one all the way until the last breath on earth

Do you think we have something to be thankful for today?

Communion Prayer

Benediction