



Christ's Promise to the Church

Matthew 16:13-19

September 5, 2021

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this sermon we introduce the series on the local church and explore Christ's promise to his church.

The Text: Matthew 16:13-19

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

1) Christ made a promise to the church that speaks directly into this cultural moment.

A) Christ is the builder of the church – "I will build."

Ephesians 2:19-22: ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

B) The church belongs to Christ – "my church."

C) Nothing can stop the church – "and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

D) The church bears the authority of God – "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven."

2) After seeing churches split and Christians divide and disengage from the church, we need to do a sermon series that explains God's design for the local church and its Christians.

- *What Isn't the Church (Problem)?*
- *What Is the Church (Principle)?*
- *Why Does the Church Exist (Purpose)?*
- *How Does the Church Function (Process)?*
- *What Is the Connection between a Christian and a Church (Participation)?*
- *How Does Christianity happen in the Local Church (Practice)?*

Response

We are Christ's church, and the promise he made to his church is also to Hope Church.

Sunday Text Questions for Matthew 16:13-19 (“I Will Build My Church” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: How has COVID and 2020 in general affected Christians and the church?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Why do you think Jesus asked his disciples to tell him who the people (crowds) say he is (v. 13)?
- 4) What do the people’s opinions suggest regarding the general assumptions about Jesus’ identity and ministry (v. 14)?
- 5) How important is the question Jesus asks the disciples in v. 15, and how would you answer if he asked you?
- 6) What is Jesus saying when, after Peter answers correctly (v. 16), he says that “flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven (v. 17)?
- 7) What is the significance of Jesus’ statement in v. 18, “I will build my church?”
- 8) Why do you think Jesus adds, “and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it,” and what is the significance of that qualification?
- 9) If the church is built and sustained by Jesus, how important is every local church to Jesus?
- 10) In what ways should we, disciples and servants of Christ, take seriously the church that Christ builds and protects, and what does that look like?

Further study this week: Passages on “the church:” Acts 20:28 (Mon); Ephesians 2:19-22 (Tues); Hebrews 10:24-25 (Wed); Romans 12:4-5 (Thurs); 1 Corinthians 3:17 (Fri).