Jesus Builds His Church

Tony Mauck · Matthew 16:13–19

INTRODUCTION

- It's very easy to fall prey to assessing things from a carnal rather than a spiritual perspective.
- This is amazing, what goes on here, who we are, what we share in Christ, what we're doing together. It's incredible. It's just so often not perceived that way.

1 Upon This Rock I Will Build My Church

Matthew 16:13–19; John 9:35–37; Mark 9:1

- And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.
- I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock, I will build my church. And the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.
- The play on words has to do with the statement that Peter made, not Peter himself, which would be the bedrock or the stone upon which this church would be built. That Jesus is the Messiah.
- The church is simply that group of people who have come under the reign of God, this new sphere of God's rule that he was about to introduce.

2 The Gates of Hades Shall Not Prevail

Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 15

- Something so powerful as death and the sting of death, which is the result of sin, even something so powerful as that could not prevail against this kingdom.
- He came up out of Hades. He rose from the dead. You see, Hades could not keep him out. And then Hades could not keep him in.
- He gives us hope beyond death, you see. And one day he has promised us a glorious body at his return.

3 The Eternal Purpose and Plan of God

Haggai 2:7

- Jesus says, I will build my church. Paul tells us in Ephesians. This has to do with the eternal purpose and plan of God.
- God would establish his kingdom that would never be destroyed. An eternal plan with an eternal result.
- I will fill this house with glory, speaking to this eternal plan that God has.

4 Added to His Church in Acts 2

Acts 2:41; Acts 2:47

- We have read Acts 2 so much that I think some of the splendor and magnificence of it has been lost on us.
- Those that gladly received His word were baptized, and they were added that day about 3,000 people.
- And they were being added to his church daily, those who are being saved.
- If you have participation in this, it's extraordinary. No matter what it looks like from a carnal or physical perspective, value this. Appreciate this.

5 It Is Jesus Who Leads His Church

Revelation 2:10; 1 John 3

- If Jesus says, I will build my church, then it is Jesus who leads his church.
- He's marching side by side with the people.
- Jesus Christ is the leader of his church. Our kingdom has a great leader.
- Our king deserves our loyalty and our service. Because he doesn't ask us to do anything that he hasn't already done.
- He's still intimately involved in our lives. That's what the whole book of Hebrews is about.

6 What Ought to Flow Out of This

John 4:34; Ephesians 5:25–27; 1 Peter 2

- If we are the called out ones who are in his church, a plan from all eternity, that ought to cause us some joy and rejoicing.
- We ought to stay busy just like our leader worked.
- If we have been called upon to lead, let us lead like the Lord leads. Caring about each individual sheep as he does.
- That he might present to himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing.
- We've got to think like the Lord thought. We've got to value what he valued. We've got to serve like he served.

THE CHALLENGE

How are you assessing things this morning? Is it time for you to follow our great leader, Jesus Christ?

MY NOTES