



LET'S GO DEEPER



He's Building Something July 28th - Pastor Peter

Matthew 16:13-18

“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ ‘Well,’ they replied, ‘some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.’ Then He asked them, ‘But who do you say I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ 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. 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.”

1. He's Building Something With Purpose

Jesus is building a people who are the church. And the church He's building has a clear purpose.

Ephesians 4:16 “He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”

He's Building A Community

‘He makes the whole body fit together perfectly.’ ‘Fit together.’ We're in this together. Nobody is in this alone.

Matthew 18:20 “For where two or three gather together in My name, I am there among them.”

But the truth of these words isn't in the number of people, it's in the promise of Jesus' presence. God is always there.

1 Corinthians 12:26 “If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honoured, all the parts are glad.”

When one person celebrates, we all celebrate. When one person grieves, we all grieve.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the church Jesus is building?

2. How is the church a community?

3. How are you part of this community?



LET'S GO DEEPER

'This same Jesus.' Why does it say, 'this same Jesus.' Because the disciples need to know that 'this same Jesus' will never change.

There's a continuity, there's a consistency. Jesus stays the same.

It's just natural then that the church He builds will therefore take action.

Jesus takes action and He hasn't changed and we want to reflect His heart.

3. He's Building Something that Has His Presence

Exodus 33:15,16 "If You don't personally go with us, don't make us leave this place. How will anyone know that You look favorably on me - on me and on Your people - if You don't go with us? For Your presence among us sets Your people and me apart from all other people on the earth."

Psalm 139:7 "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?"

There's nowhere we can go to flee from the presence of the Spirit. In fact, we'd never want to.

Our challenge isn't so much in knowing it as it is in experiencing it.

To be attentive to the presence of the Spirit we need to filter out the noise of life.

Because His presence is able to work through us in our everyday lives as we welcome and acknowledge Him.

The Lord uses ordinary people with ordinary lives and ordinary struggles to do extraordinary things.

Putting it all together (Application)

1. You are the church. Jesus' church is not a building, a place, or an institution as many may think. Jesus' church is you, its people, its Jesus followers coming together and living their faith and their life

QUESTIONS:

1. Can we rely on God being consistent?

2. How is that reassuring for you?

3. How can we take action as followers of Jesus?



LET'S GO DEEPER

based on Jesus' teachings. Growing together and everyone doing their part to strengthen the community of faith and showing others outside of the church the way, the truth and the life through Jesus Christ. You have a mission that Jesus wants you to carry out, you are important.

2. Take action. You are called to action our faith. Not just say I am a Christian, a follower of Jesus but truly live out your faith. God is consistent, he doesn't change, he is reliable and in that you can build on without hesitation. Jesus calls you to be a witness of him. What does that mean? A witness is someone that has experience firsthand what he or she shares with others. Can you share with others what Jesus has done in your life? Yes! Then take action to do so. You are called to do so.

3. Believe, and action upon it. His presence is with you. After Jesus starts building His church on the Day of Pentecost amazing things start to happen. People are healed. People are raised from the dead. People are delivered. People are set free from prison. It's super spectacular. But we need to remember that the Book of Acts spans about 30 years of history. And it's not 30 years of constant miracles. In between the peaks of the spectacular, we also read of the valleys of challenge and struggle. And we discover that God is with His people as much in the valley as He is on the mountaintop. And we discover that the Lord uses ordinary people with ordinary lives and ordinary struggles to do extraordinary things. The early followers of Jesus aren't spiritual weirdos. They aren't super holy elites. They have doubts, and questions and failures and fears and fights and struggles. They're normal people who walk with God. We just need a desperation to see the Holy Spirit break into our lives in power.

He's done it before, and He can do it again. So, don't accept spiritual mediocrity. Long for God's presence to do amazing things through you. God can do amazing things through you. You just need faith to believe that God will use us. You need faith to believe that He can speak to us and through us. You need faith to believe that He works in us and in our world. Then we need to act upon what we believe about God and upon what we believe God has asked us to do.

ACTION STEPS:

QUESTIONS:

1. Why is having his presence in our lives so important?

2. How can we achieve this?

3. Do you think God is willing to use you?
