**ROAD TO THE CROSS**

**What Jesus Said and Why It Matters, Matthew 16:13–28**

Sunday, March 20, 2022

**WE Slide 1 GREAT day yesterday at the SERVE Class 11 people who are excited about God and what He’s doing in our church and who want to be used by Him in our church. Slide 2** The REACH Class- coming up 4/2, learn how to effectively share the gospel- just in time to invite people to EASTER. **Slide 3 4/3 BAPTISM SUNDAY-** **I’ve met with 6 so far; set up a time to talk. Slide 4** CONNECT Class on 4/24 if you want to learn more about GP and/or become a member of GP. **A lot going on- don’t miss it! Slide 5**

**ROAD TO THE CROSS: What Jesus Said and Why It Matters.** Turn in your Bibles to Matthew 16:13, pg. 976. **If you knew you were going to die what would you want to make sure you told your family and friends? Jesus is taking the first steps on the long road down to Jerusalem knowing He will be arrested, beaten, crucified, and rise again to secure our salvation from sin’s earthly power and its eternal consequences of judgment in hell.** The focus of His teaching moves from teaching the crowds to teaching His disciples what they need to know so they are ready to take over His mission. **In the weeks leading up to Easter we’re going to look at a few of the things Jesus had to say/teach and then answer the question, Why does it matter to us?** The first thing we’ll look at is how Jesus says a person gets into heaven, follow along as I read starting in v. 13. **Slide 6-12**

**There’s a lot going on here so stick with me.** Jesus said, “I will build My church.” **The question is upon what will He build His church- who gets to be part of His church/go to heaven?** Is it Peter whom the Catholic Church says was the first pope, therefore the Catholic church/its popes determine who gets into heaven or is it Jesus Christ/confessing Him as God and Deliverer from sin that gets us into heaven? **Look what Jesus says, “*I* will be My church.”**

**GOD**

1. **WHAT JESUS SAID- I Will Build My Church, Matthew 16:13-20**
2. **Built by Jesus-** not Peter, you, not me, but Jesus Christ Himself is building His church.
3. It’s His **CHURCH**- ekklesia; called out ones; people He’s calling out from the world into a personal relationship with Him to know Him, represent Him, draw others to Him; we serve Him in the building.
4. It’s **HIS** church- we don’t do/teach whatever we want; Jesus Christ and His Word/Bible directs us; not other writings that man has come up with that he says has the same authority as the Bible.
5. It’s on the **OFFENSE**- hell/Satan are on the defensive, Jesus is bringing the fight to them through us, stop being focused on Satan and focus on Jesus, our mission, His victory.

**The question is what is Jesus building it on?** What’s its foundation? How does someone get in? **Slide 13 Let’s go back to v. 18 because Jesus tells us what He’s building His church on.** Jesus says its built on a person’s CONFESSION that Jesus is God and Deliverer. **You might be saying, “Wait! It says that Peter is a rock and it’s on “this” rock, Peter, that He’ll build His church.** Well, let’s see... **Slide 14**

1. **Built on Our Confession**
2. Jesus’ focus is on the disciples’ confession of who Jesus is- God and Deliverer from sin; truth that according to Jesus only God the Father can reveal to someone.
3. Jesus asked all the disciples who they thought He was.
4. Peter who often spoke for the disciples answered for all of them.
5. v. 18 The “rock” is Jesus and our confession that He is God/Deliverer, not Peter/pope. **Why?**
6. Peter- petros; masc. form, stone; “rock”- petras, fem. form, massive rock, foundation.
7. In Greek a feminine noun cannot modify, or describe, a masculine noun- petra cannot be referring to/describing Petros.
8. **Slide 15-19** Peter himself didn’t believe he was the foundation stone, 1 Peter 2:4-10
9. **Slide 20-23** No doubt Peter had a big part in leading the church, but all apostles and prophets were considered foundational to the building Jesus is doing, Ephesians 2:19-22
10. **One more point:** There wasn’t and isn’t today centralized leadership, except Jesus Christ, IF there was it would have started with James/Jerusalem not Peter/Rome, Acts 15.

**Jesus is the cornerstone of the church, our faith in Him gives us entry into heaven, not Peter/pope.** **Slide 24** Which brings us to the “keys of the kingdom” that Jesus gives Peter. **Here again the CC believes Jesus gave Peter, their popes/CC, the authority to say who is in the kingdom/saved and who is not. Is Jesus saying that or is He saying that Peter/disciples/us have the authority based on the Bible to say whether a person is saved or not?** Let’s look at v. 19 and I apologize because I’m going to get technical. **Slide 25**

1. **Based on Our Authority- the Bible, v. 19**
2. “keys”- they unlock/lock doors; unlocks heaven for people or keeps it locked up to them. **Acts 2-** Peter and the disciples were the first to share the gospel and unlock the kingdom for people.
3. “bind/bound”- confirming that a person is saved/“loosed”- confirming that a person is not saved.

**The question is who is telling who that a person is saved/not?** Is Peter/disciples telling heaven/God- “This person is saved or not and God agrees with Peter? Or, has heaven/God already determined what makes someone saved and based on that Peter/disciples/us can say whether a person is saved or not? **The key is in the verb “shall have been”. Slide 26** Hang with me and we can talk later if you have questions.

1. If it was “will be bound/loosed” then it would mean Peter is telling heaven/God who is saved/not saved. **But the verb is “shall have been”**
2. “shall have been”- in Greek, periphrastic future perfect passive- has already been bound/loosed; heaven/God tells Peter/us what is bound or loosed, who is saved or not saved.
3. The same wording is in Matthew 18:18 given to 2-3 believers doing church discipline; heaven, God tells believers how to discipline other believers and they are to follow through with it.
4. **How did the 1st cent. apostles/Christians know what God had to say about salvation, discipline?** OT Scriptures and God’s inspired spoken/written word through the apostles/writers.
5. **How do we today know what God says about salvation/discipline?** Through the inspired written word of the OT writers and NT apostles/writers- God’s Word, the Bible.
6. **Slide 27 TIE IT TOGETHER:** We can declare that someone is saved or not based on the authority of what the Bible says saves a person. If someone says “I have placed my faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of my sins” we can say then according to the Bible/God you are saved, bound in the eyes of heaven/God. If a person says, “I have never accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior” we can say then according to the Bible you are not saved, you are loosed in the eyes of heaven/God.”

**Slide 28 To sum it up:** Jesus is building His church which is built on the confession of faith that Jesus is God/Deliverer from sin by the authority of God’s Word the Bible. **Why does any of this matter? Slide 29 1st because Jesus is giving up His life to make this happen.** Anyone willing to give up His life for us is someone we should listen to especially when it’s God. **Look what Matthew says about Jesus in v. 21. Slide 30-31 Why is Jesus going to Jerusalem to suffer, be killed, and raised a 3rd day considered a “must”?**

1. **WHY IT MATTERS, Matthew 16:21-27**
2. **Because He’s Provided the Only Way to God, 16:21**
3. He “must”- because this is the whole reason God the Son became man, to take God’s wrath, God’s punishment on Himself so we wouldn’t have to experience it for eternity in hell.
4. Jesus isn’t just calling people out of the world to become His followers; He’s giving His life to make it possible; as God He’s the only One able to do that.
5. Jesus is not just Israel’s Messiah/deliverer, He’s the deliverer for all people- He’s done the work necessary to deliver us from sin’s eternal consequences of hell and its earthly power in our life.

**Slide 32 The other reason why it matters that Jesus is building His church is that He’s provided us the only way to live life.** Look what Matthew tells us next. **Slide 33-39**  **Did you see how Jesus responds to Peter when Peter tells Him that’s not going to happen? Peter you’re not thinking right!!**

1. **Because He’s Given Us the Only Way to Live Life, 16:22-27**
2. Jesus calls Peter “Satan” for trying to keep Jesus’ mission from happening.
3. Jesus just complimented Peter by saying God revealed spiritual truth to him, then Peter turns around and speaks his opinion and Jesus says they are words Satan would have said.
4. “Get behind Me!”- upago; same word He said to Satan in Matt 4- “Go Satan!”
5. Peter was “setting…mind” on man’s interest- phroneo; basic orientation, bent or thought patterns of the mind, he was just voicing his opinion of what Jesus said.

**Have you ever told Jesus that His way of salvation, or His way of doing life is not the way it should be done?** **You have if you’ve rejected His offer of salvation or as a Christian disobeyed any of His commands.** **Slide 40** On the heels of Peter voicing his opinion Jesus turns to all the disciples and says…to be in relationship with Me means to die to how you think things should be done. **We all have our opinions on how life should be lived but Jesus makes it clear that His followers are to die to what they think.** These verses are not describing the road TO salvation, but the road OF salvation- the life Christians are to live day in and day out.

1. Jesus calls His followers to die to their thoughts, opinions.
2. “come after”- refers to a personal relationship/not religion.- human relationships- we can agree to disagree, but with Christ He is God and He says what’s right and wrong.
3. “deny self”- aparveomai; aorist imperative, a definite/decisive choice to not do life my way.
4. “take up…cross”- this only meant “death”; aorist imper., to make a decisive choice to die, not a better you.
5. “follow Me”- “follow”- akoloutheo; present active; to follow or accompany someone who takes the lead, go along with, fellowship with along the road, speaks of relationship

**If you do Jesus promises that you’ll find what life was meant to be. Slide 41**

1. Jesus calls His followers to “lose their lives” for Him.
2. “save his life will lose it”- a professing Christian who wants to “save his life”- do life His way will end up losing it through the consequences of disobedience AND it may indicate a person isn’t truly saved- that has eternal consequences..
3. “lose his life will save it”- a professing Christian who gives up trying to do life their way will find the depth/joy of life that God wants us to have. That commitment, that devotion, shows they are truly saved.
4. Gaining everything the world says is important for 80-90 years and then living for eternity in hell compared to not getting everything the world says is important and living in heaven is a no brainer.

**Jesus closes out by saying at the end of time He is coming back and He knows who are His and who aren’t and will judge them accordingly.** Believers won’t have a judgment of punishment in hell because Jesus took that for them; we’ll have a judgment of rewards based on how well we served Christ. **Those who failed to receive His offer of salvation through faith in Him will experience a judgment of punishment in hell for eternity.** As the band comes up let me close with 2 TAKEAWAYS. **Slide 42**

**YOU TAKEAWAYS**

1. **Who do you say Jesus is?** Good teacher, religious leader, or the Living God and Deliverer of Your Sin and Eternal Judgment? **Jesus is building His church and wants you to be a part of it.** Accept His offer of salvation right now. **A, B, C and let me know or put it on a Connect Card, once and done.**

**Slide 43**

1. **Christian- Where are you expressing your opinion about what Jesus expects of you and hindering His work in your life?** You made a decisive choice to say NO to your opinions, to die to what you think and how you respond and are to day in/day out no matter the circumstances or how you feel walk with Jesus in your life. **Do business with Christ and commit that area(s) to Him.**

**PODCAST: Jesus said “I will build My church!” Find out why that mattes to you. Matthew 16:13-27, 1 Peter 2:4-10, Ephesians 2:19-22, Matthew 18:18**