

J.J.

CHURCH 101
Matthew 16: 13-20

**Matthew 16 : ¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"*

¹⁴They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Pray

INTRODUCTION :

Story : Talking about receiving gifts. Grace who is 5 years old is being brought by her Lola to "big church" for the first time. Grace sat quietly taking in every aspect of the service and her attentive curiosity stayed in check until the pastoral prayer. The pastor said, "We thank You, Lord, for Your presence." The little girl's eyes flew open and she whispered to her grandmother, "Lola, we're gonna get presents!"

But of course, Grace is correct. Wherever the presence of God is, expect blessings.

Psalms 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Last week, we started our lesson on Church 101 based on Matthew 16

OUTLINE :

THE FOUNDER

THE FOUNDATION

THE FUNCTION

QUICK REVIEW

***I. THE FOUNDER**

We have to remember that the church is not founded by man...it is founded by our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and that makes it special.

I will build my church

The church is not founded by any man but by Christ Himself.

And the difference is the founder of the church is alive and forever more. This means two things :

- 1. Our Lord is present whenever his church gathers**

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Illustration :

People read in the newspaper that the President would attend Riverview church. There was a typo mistake in the newspaper which should have read Riverside church. So there was an unusually big crowd that morning in the church and it was standing room only. The service starts at 10:30 a.m. and obviously the President wasn't there. So the pastor stood up to start the service. While he was about to start, someone from the congregation interrupted and said, "Pastor, what time is the President coming? Shouldn't we wait for him?" The pastor replied, "I don't know what you're talking about but the God of the Universe is here so I'm pretty sure it's ok for us to begin our worship service."

2. Since the founder is still alive, it means He still heads the church.

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.

Colossians 1 :18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

The head of the church is not a pope, not a bishop, not a priest, not a pastor, not an elder nor any man or a group of men. It is Christ Himself.

Quote : Spurgeon had a sermon he preached called, "Jesus, Our Lord,"

"The church of God in a very special manner calls Jesus our Lord for there is not and there cannot be any head of the church except the Lord Jesus Christ. It is awful blasphemy for any man on earth to call himself Christ's vicar and the head of the church. It is a usurpation of the crown rights of King Jesus for any king or queen to be called the head of the church, for the true church of Jesus Christ can have no head but Jesus Christ Himself. And I'm thankful there is no head to the church of which I am a member except Jesus Christ," then he added, "nor dare I be a member of any church which would content to any headship but His."

Yes, God has established pastors and elders and as elders of this church, we acknowledge that there is only one true head of the church and He is our Lord Jesus Christ.

II. THE FOUNDATION**1. His church is not built on man's visions, imaginations or traditions or visitations**

**, for this was not revealed to you by man,*

***Illustration :** (show lemming) Lemmings (although it's a myth) is said to commit mass suicide. But a mass of them are pushed off the cliff because they are just following the masses or what others are doing.

In short, the belief system of a lot of people is based on what they grew up with or what others or their parents are doing not knowing they are at the precipice of destruction

Proverbs 14: ¹² There is a way that **seems right to a man,
but in the end it leads to death.*

Some religion, you don't even know how it came about. The second biggest religion in the world which is Islam was brought about by a man in a cave who said that the angel Gabriel appeared to him and sent by God.

Look at what the Bible says about that :

2 Corinthians 11:14 But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

Galatians 1:8 Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you.

That's why in 1 Corinthians 3:11, it says :

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Which now bring us to...

***2. His church is built on God's revelation**

17 Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.

What was the revelation?

**16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

In short, this **TRUTH IS THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH.**

Let's unfold this further by God's grace.

18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this **rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

Note : Our Lord wasn't referring to Peter to which He will build His church.

Question : What is the rock?

Etymology : Peter (petros – meaning stone) - rock (petro- bedrock)

It is on that bedrock statement of Peter on which the church is built upon.

**Ephesians 2: ¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.*

Illustration : The leaning of the Tower of Pisa comes into the story in 1173, when construction began. Thanks to the soft ground, it had begun to lean by the time its builders got to the third story, in 1178. Shifting soil had destabilized the tower's foundations.

Over the next 800 years, it became clear the 55-metre tower wasn't just leaning but was actually falling at a rate of one to two millimeters per year. Source : Towerofpisa.org

Application : It is important that the church is built on Jesus Christ, anything else is “soft ground”. Why? It’s because when the time of death comes, that’s the time you are not on solid ground which is Christ and you will be destroyed.

That’s why our Lord said.

18And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Explain Hades : “abode of the dead”

In short, whenever this truth is proclaimed and people believe it, we are saving people from hell.

Which now brings us to the third part...

III. FUNCTION

19I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Myth : susi ni San Pedro. The keys were given to the church

Explain : Two images from Jesus’ time

REGARDING THE KEYS : Scriptures during that time was hidden in a box and they have to use a key to open it to take out the Scriptures and read in the synagogues.

REGARDING THE BINDING AND LOOSING :

Again, context, context, context...

This can be explained two ways :

- **Scriptures were not in a book format during their time.** Just like these days, the Bible is not only found in book format but in digital format.

So during that time, the form was in scrolls. And it is tied.

In order for you to read it, you need to let it loose. Once you’re done, you need to bind it.

In short, whenever we proclaim the Gospel, the truth, we are opening God’s Word to others and there’s no other way that people will be saved.

***Romans 10: 13 for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”***

Illustration : All of us here by God’s grace, you know you are saved if you believe that Jesus Christ took the punishment of your sin on the cross and that by believing that He rose again from the dead... but how did you know that...someone opened the Word of God in your life.

- **Loosing and binding is a legal phrase among the Jews.**

Illustration : Just like what we have today, we say “the contract is binding...”

This means, you are tied to this contract... for example, you sign a loan with a bank, you need to pay that loan because you signed the contract or else there will be consequences.

Let’s say, a rich man went to the bank and paid off all your loans and mortgages, the bank (the law) says, “I’m letting you loose from your obligations to me because someone has already paid for your debts.”

Our Lord has given the church that function by the proclamation of the gospel.

When people hear the Gospel, we tell them that you are being let loose from your debts from God because Jesus Christ has paid it for us already.

Side note : Imagine a person whose debts have already been paid by the rich man and the bank manager tells that to him and yet because of his pride says, “No, I want to pay for my debts myself.” I don’t want this rich man paying for my debt.

Two things : One, that person is a fool by not accepting this gift. Two, his loan to the bank is a trillion dollars, how can he pay for that loan?

Quote : We should not only repent of our sins but also repent of our righteousness – Chris Shipster

Why? It’s because yes, salvation is a free gift but the cost of it

1 Peter 1:18 For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

Now, it is also to the church which our Lord entrusted the preaching of the truth which is found in Scriptures.

This is the reason why the Bible says

1 Timothy 3:15 if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

That’s why it’s very important that the church is preaching the truth because it is through the Scriptures where people will know what is “lawful” and “righteous” in the eyes of God.

But whatever it is : It’s talking about the mission of the church

**Matthew 28 : ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

In short, our Lord Jesus Christ has given us His authority to make disciples of Him through the preaching of the Gospel.

Now you know CHURCH 101

**You know who our Founder is Jesus Christ Himself
Our Foundation is The Gospel – Christ the Son of the Living God
Our Function - To proclaim Him to the entire world.**

Now every Lord's Day, we gather as a church and I explained earlier, wherever the church gathers, Jesus is with us. And we need to make sure that the truth is preached in the church and then we need to preach that truth to the world.

Illustration :

A preacher was in Atlanta, several years ago, and noticed in the restaurants section of the Yellow Pages, an entry for a place called Church of God Grill. The peculiar name aroused his curiosity and he dialed the number. A man answered with a cheery, "Hello! Church of God Grill!"

The preacher asked how that restaurant had been given such an unusual name, and the man said: "Well, we had a little mission down here, and we started selling chicken dinners after church on Sunday to help pay the bills. Well, people liked the chicken, and we did such a good business, that eventually we cut back on the church service. After a while we just closed down the church altogether and kept on serving chicken dinners. We kept the name we started with, and that's Church of God Grill."

Let us make sure we would never forget why we are a church.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

S.G.D.