

I Will Build My Church

(Matthew 16:18)

- Introduction:
1. One of the great moments of my preaching life occurred when I had the opportunity to preach at Caesarea Philippi.
 2. The text from which I will be preaching this evening, is the text I used when I preached in Caesarea Philippi, because the events of that text occurred in that city.
 3. I invite you to open your Bibles to Matthew 16:13-19.

I. Jesus Asked His Disciples a Question

- A. (Matthew 16:13-15).
- B. It was a very safe question, "Who do men say that I am?"
- C. Consider the compliment to John the Baptist, Elijah, and Jeremiah.
- D. Then it gets personal, "Who do you say that I am?"

II. Peter's Answer

- A. (Matthew 16:16).
- B. Note that Simon is not the first to make this affirmation (John 1:49).
- C. But Peter, like Nathaniel, affirmed the greatest truth anyone will ever affirm.

III. Jesus' Reply

- A. (Matthew 16:17-19).
- B. Jesus blessed Simon for his confession(16:17).
- C. Jesus praised Simon by changing his name (16:18).
- D. Jesus contrasted Peter with the rock upon which he would build his church (16:18).
- E. The church Jesus was building was his church (16:18).
- F. The church Jesus was building could not be stopped by the gates of Hades (16:18).
- G. Jesus gave Peter the "keys to the kingdom" (16:19; Acts 2:14).
 1. The "binding and loosing" was not given just to Peter but to all the apostles (John 20:23).
 2. In fact, the power of "binding and loosing" even extended beyond the apostles to any of God's followers (Matthew 18:15-20).

- Conclusion:
1. This church that Jesus promised to build was built (Acts 2), and it continues to this day, and will continue until he returns.
 2. Don't be deceived by counterfeits.
 3. Make sure that you are a part of the church that Jesus built, and not a church founded by man, and practicing man-made doctrines.