

## THE CHURCH THAT JESUS BUILT

October 13, 2013 Matthew 16:13-19 by Bob Branch  
Blessed To Be A Blessing, Part 3

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**BIG IDEA:** God designed the church (his family) to be the continuing, living extension of Jesus on the earth, bringing heaven to this dark world. You are part of that *family* and that *missional* purpose.

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man [how Jesus refers to himself] is?" <sup>14</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

*People have all kinds of whacky ideas about who Jesus was...*

<sup>15</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

When Jesus Christ stops being concept and starts becoming real to you, everything in life changes!

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

<sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

"...to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" **John 1:12**

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> I 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."

Peter himself (with his God-revealed confession) is the foundation stone of this new fledgling group of Christ-followers that form the Church. (Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet. 2:4-5)

**GATES: *The Church is the aggressor, not the devil!***

***"Keys of the kingdom of heaven"*** (19)

**Storm the gates of hell. Open heaven up for people. The church's mission!**

1. **The church is God's family... individuals connected and working together for a common purpose LARGER THAN OURSELVES.**

When Simon Peter saw this (the massive catch), he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"... Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. **Luke 5:8, 10-11**

2. **The church is OFFENSIVE FORCE intended to expand.**

Jesus said to his followers, "Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone." **Mark 16:15** NCV (Acts 1:8)

**Cruise ship or Aircraft Carrier?**

**"Plant 10 churches..."**

3. **The church has been given AUTHORITY, GIFTS and POWER to be effective.**

*Most formidable weapon is the **Gospel**, and sharing it!*

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes" **Romans 1:16**

**Romans 10:14-15, 17**

**Show generous hospitality:** Open heart... home... heaven

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." **Hebrews 13:2**