

How the Church is Built

Matthew 16:13-20

Matthew

The Messiah is Jesus
The community He formed
is the continuation and completion
of true Judaism

13-14

15-16

17-19

Peter and the early church
Peter opened the church to...

Jewish people: Pentecost and 3,000 new people

Samaritans: confirming them, Spirit given

Gentiles: opening the way to Cornelius

Peter closed the church to...

Ananias and Sapphira

Simon the Sorcerer

...by effectually declaring God's Word

20

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

"As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." *1 Peter 2:4-5*

The Big Idea

Jesus, the Son of God
unstoppably builds His People of God
on the chosen yet fallible people
who put their faith in Him



What are we to do?

Recognize Jesus as builder-on-people of the Church

Confidence and peace

Boldly do the work of the church as God calls

"As each part does its part"

Value your part

Value the other parts

Because our parts really matter!

What a privilege!

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. What is your sense for how the Church is doing, both globally and in different parts of the world?
2. When you think of the church, do you tend to think of it more as a fragile human institution trying to be what God wants, or more of an unstoppable force that Jesus is building? Why might that be?
3. What is your sense for the role that people play in Jesus' unstoppable work to build the church? In what ways do people and our work matter? In what ways do they not?
4. What is your role in Jesus' work to build the Church? What gifts has He given you? What responsibilities have you been given?
5. How are you being bold in developing those gifts, not timid or ashamed but giving yourself fully to them? What might that look like to do that more boldly and with perseverance?
6. What are you doing, or can you do, to help others know their key role in building the church, and to encourage them in that work?

Conversation starters with people in daily life, whether or not they are Christians

- What comes to mind when you think of the Christian Church?
- What shapes your thinking about the Christian Church?