



LIFEgroup Homework

Week of March 7, 2010

The Kingdom at the Gates – Matthew 16:13-18

How confused the multitudes of people were about Christ Jesus! Some thought He was John the Baptist come back to life. Others thought He might be Elijah, the prophet of fire, returning to Israel. Still others said He was Jeremiah or another of the Old Testament prophets. However, no man can see who Jesus really is without it being revealed by the Father (Matthew 11:27) and without the witness of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:3).

Peter was such a man, who declared that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Peter's declaration about the person of Jesus Christ led to the declaration of Christ's program – "I will build my Church." Christ, the cornerstone and foundation of the Church, was revealing that He would now accomplish His work, not through Israel, but through a people who would produce fruit (Matthew 21:42-44).

Along with His declaration that He would build His church was the promise that not even the forces of Hell would be able to destroy what He was going to build. - His church, His kingdom - the Kingdom at the Gates.

Sharing Question:

What are some of the things you have heard others tell you concerning what they believed about Christ?

What do your unchurched or unsaved friends and acquaintances think about the church today?

Homework: Read Luke 1:1-4

Read Matthew 16:13-18.

1. From the following options, select what you think is the main point of this passage. Why do you think so?

- Jesus' true identity

- The revelation of the church

- The foundation and prevailing nature of the church

- Peter's faith

- Something else

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2. In verse 13, what is the significance of Jesus referring to Himself by the title “Son of Man?” (Hint: Daniel 7:13-15; Acts 7:55-56; Revelation 1:10-18)

3. The word “Christ” (anointed one) in verse 16, is the New Testament equivalent to the term “Messiah” used in the Old Testament. What did a typical Jew believe about the Messiah at this time? Do you think Peter believed the same thing? Why or why not? (Isaiah 9:6, 7; Jeremiah 23.5, 6; Micah 5:2)

4. Peter’s faith in Jesus was revealed to him by God (“my Father in heaven,” verse 17). Does our faith come in the same way? Why or why not?

5. On what or whom does “this rock” on which the church was to be built (the foundation) refer to in verse 18? Why do you think so?

(Read Acts 4:11, 12; 1 Corinthians 3:10, 11; Ephesians 1:22, 23; Ephesians 5:23; 1 Peter 2:6, 7)

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6. Christ said that the gates of Hades would not overcome His Church. What is the significance of that statement to you today? How should that knowledge affect us in our local church ministry?

Jesus Christ is asking every man and woman alive the same question today - - "But what about you? Who do you say that I am?" If God is revealing to you in your heart that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God, I urge you call on Him to save you today!



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