

The Church
Foundation
Matthew 16:13-20

- It is important to read more than Matthew 16:13-20 to get the full context of Jesus' establishment of the church. Read all the way through verse 27, and then answer the following questions:
 - What is the church? See the definition at the bottom of page 2 of the notes. Any way you look at it, the church is a community of saints – those who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.
 - Grammatically, Jesus was saying that he will build his church on the rock, or Peter. Contextually, though, Peter was no infallible Pope! Jesus had no sooner called him the rock than he called him Satan! Peter represented the apostles, so the preaching of the gospel included all of them, and by extension, us. The preaching and reception of the gospel will build the church. What is your role in this plan?
 - Even though Peter had a huge role in the spread of the gospel (Acts 2, 8, and 10), he failed miserably at times. He was confused immediately after making his divinely inspired confession of Jesus. This should both prepare us to be careful with our words, and encourage us when we fail. Discuss.
 - What does Jesus mean that the gates of hell will not prevail against the church?
 - If Satan is committed to ferociously attacking the church, what might we do to strengthen our defenses?
- When did you first realize that Jesus is much more than a teacher, or a prophet, or a social worker, or a good example for us to follow?
- When did you first realize the importance of the church in your life as a believer?
- What are some of the privileges and responsibilities of church members? Instead of a consumer mentality we should have a steward mentality. What does that look like?
- Spend time praying for our church.

Study Notes

Thoughts and Quotes from the Sermon

Questions to be answered during our series on The Church:

1. What is the biblical foundation for the church?
2. What is the difference between the universal church and the local church? If I am a member of the universal church, why do I need to be a member of a local church?
3. Speaking of membership, is church membership biblical? Why is membership encouraged at Grace?
4. What is the biblical structure for church leadership? How do our elders and deacons function?
5. Why do we require members to attend for at least a year before:
 - being considered as a deacon?
 - leading a ministry?
 - serving on a leadership team?
 - leading a home group?
6. Why do we require membership for two years before being considered as an elder?
7. If one of our core values is “every member a minister,” what can I do at Grace during my first year? What if the Holy Spirit has given me leadership giftings?
8. Why is home group attendance expected before being considered for leadership on any ministry team?
9. Why do we observe the Lord’s Supper twice a month? Do we consider the Table and baptism to be sacraments or ordinances?
10. Why the increased emphasis on giving this year?
11. Why do we recite creeds on occasion? Isn’t that somewhat Catholic?
12. Why do we not have an invitation at the end of the sermon?
13. Should I ask the elders to pray for me if I have a chronic illness or a major need in my life?
14. Why are only men allowed to serve as elders and deacons at Grace?
15. If we offer services online, is it okay for me to watch at home rather than attend?

What is the church? The Greek word for church is *ekklesia*, which means “assembly, gathering, or congregation.” The root word means “to call out.” The church is a “called out assembly.” This does not mean that we live separate from the world, though. It means we follow Jesus (because he is the foundation/cornerstone) while we

live in the world. We do not take our directions for how to live from the world, but rather from God's Word. This will become clear during this series.

The kingdom of God is mentioned more than 125 times in the four gospels, but church is only mentioned three times – once in today's text and twice in a text we will look at next week, Matthew 18:15-20. **It is almost the opposite in the rest of the New Testament.** Why? Maybe we will talk about that during this series.

R.T. France: However limited Peter's grasp of Jesus' actual mission, he has gone beyond the popular acclamation of Jesus as a prophet to the point of recognizing him as not just one among many, not even, like John the Baptist, the greatest of the prophets (Matthew 11:11), but as the one climactic figure in whom God's purpose is finally being accomplished. In that, he has made the crucial breakthrough.

Peter's role in the spread of the gospel:

1. Pentecost – salvation comes to the Jews. Acts 2
2. Samaria – salvation comes to the Samaritans, who were a mixed race of Jewish and Gentile blood. Acts 8
3. Caesarea (not to be confused with Caesarea Philippi) – salvation comes to the Gentiles. Acts 10

Scripture Associated with the Message

Genesis 4:25 And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him." 26 To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. **At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.**

Genesis 12:1 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. **2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**"

Exodus 19:3 . . . The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: 4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. **5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;**

6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

Jeremiah 31:31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

John 7:11 The Jews were looking for him at the feast, and saying, "Where is he?" 12 And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, "He is a good man," others said, "No, he is leading the people astray." 13 Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him.

John 7:40 When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This really is the Prophet." 41 Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? 42 Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" 43 So there was a division among the people over him.

Ephesians 1:11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into

him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Matthew 16:13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” 20 Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” 23 But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.