

**Matthew – The King And His Kingdom**  
**The Great Adventure**  
**Notes For Session 15 – Chapter 16: Jesus Establishes the Church**

**T1. Overview of the Chapter:**

- A. We are going to focus on one topic in this Chapter – The Papacy.
- B. Once you begin to study the Bible and the history of Israel, you begin to see, The Papacy is something completely normal in the life of Israel.
- C. Only after the Reformation, we are faced with idea of having a Church without a Pope, a central government, or without the guarantee of the Holy Spirit to keep the unity of Christ together.
- D. Up until Chapter 16, Jesus has avoided the subject of death. Question comes up, Lord why did you come to earth? To die for the sins of man. Why wait all this time.
- E. The answer is that Jesus has things to do: to establish His Church, His Kingdom, His authority and a deposit of faith to be passed on to the next generation and filled them with His spirit, His power to do the work He did on earth.

**T2. The Demand for a Sign (Verses 1-4):**

In the first four verses of the Pharisees and Sadducees are coming to test Jesus, and asked Him to show them a sign from heaven.

- A. Remember the temple in Jerusalem was established under the reign of David, built by his son Solomon around 1000 BC.
- B. The kingship in the OT was asked for by the people, they wanted a king like the other nations (1 Samuel 8). God said give them a king and also received a temple like all the other nations.
  - 1) So the kingdom in the OT has two components: A King and a Temple, but they are provisional, they're types, they're going to go away, like the other nations.
  - 2) A type is something that points to the reality. The Temple and the King are a type of something in the future,, which is Jesus. Jesus is the real dwelling place, and He is going to build the real Temple, and He is the real King.
  - 3) The Temple and the King was not God's idea in the OT. God told David that was it was not His idea, so He gives them what they want.
- C. Now we are going to see Jesus' teaching beginning to erode the Temple – the Temple is going to come down, and there is going to be a new King, and He is the King. Remember Matt 12, when Jesus says, don't you remember 1 Samuel 21 – the Priests with the King
- D. With all that in mind, we go into Chapter 16, where Jesus beginning to build this Kingdom – establish a leader of the Kingdom. He is going to do some teaching that the reader will understand the OT temple – and the temple is a type, but the Jews have become so attached to the temple that anything speaking against it is blasphemy.

"The Pharisees and Sadducees came and, to test him, asked him to show them a sign from heaven. He said to them in reply, "(In the evening you say, 'Tomorrow will be fair, for the sky is red'; and, in the morning, 'Today will be stormy, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to judge the appearance of the sky, but you cannot judge the signs of the times.) An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah." Then he left them and went away."

## E. What is the Sign of Jonah?

- 1) Jonah was in the belly of the fish – 3 days and 3 nights.
- 2) Bigger sign – one message that Jonah gave to the Ninevites up in Assyria. Jonah 3:4: Jonah began his journey through the city, and had gone but a single day's walk announcing, "Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed,"
  - a) Jesus has been slowly hinting at the destruction of the Temple – new King, new Temple.
  - b) What happens 40 years after Jesus? – the Temple is destroyed by Rome.
  - c) The sign of Jonah – in forty years this place will be destroyed.

### **T3. Peter's Confession about Jesus (Verses 13-20):**

"When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Messiah."

- A.** What is Jesus doing when He gives Peter keys? Jesus ties Peter to the Father through the one who is greater than Jonah. Peter is going to have a significant role in doing what Jonah did in the OT.
- B.** Church – Ekklesia – used to translate Hebrew word Kahal. Jesus reminds us of the "called-out ones" (Kahal) the assembly of Israel in the wilderness on their exodus from Egypt. Hint about Church being the new exodus from bondage.
- C.** Jewish Tradition – there was a stone that served as a cover to Hades (Sheol in Hebrew). Creation began, light was created, the Temple site, the center of the world where Isaac was sacrificed; was all on this stone.
  - 1) Stone is where the current Moslem Mosque (Golden Dome) is in Jerusalem.
  - 2) Where the Temple of Solomon was built upon a rock on Mount Moriah.
  - 3) A giant rock inside the Moslem Mosque that the Muslims believe Mohammad ascended from earth with his horse on this rock
  - 4) Jewish tradition is that was the capstone to the gates to Hades.
  - 5) House of God would be built on that stone in the OT. The Gate is linked with the keys. The keys fit the gate. And He has the power over death.

### **T4. The First Prediction of the Passion (Verses 21-23):**

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

- A.** The topic of the Papacy and the primacy of Peter maybe the most important issue of our study in our certitude about the Catholic Church.

- B. By what Authority do men speak? If we can identify the authority and the voice of Christ in the world today, all other issues will be settled as our faith will rest on the certitude of Christ's delegated authority.
- C. Throughout Salvation History – God has always established His Authority among His people. And when His Authority cannot be identified as it is in the Book of Judges where everyman did what was right in his own sight – there was chaos.
- D. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus established His Kingdom and left us with organized leadership for the purpose of passing on all that He taught and equipping us to lead the life we were meant to live us children.

#### E. Role of the Papacy:

- 1) **CCC 881:** The Lord made Simon alone, whom he named Peter, the "rock" of his Church. He gave him the keys of his Church and instituted him shepherd of the whole flock. "The office of binding and loosing which was given to Peter was also assigned to the college of apostles united to its head." This pastoral office of Peter and the other apostles belongs to the Church's very foundation and is continued by the bishops under the primacy of the Pope.
- 2) **CCC 882:** The Pope, Bishop of Rome and Peter's successor, "is the perpetual and visible source and foundation of the unity both of the bishops and of the whole company of the faithful." "For the Roman Pontiff (Bishop), by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ, and as pastor of the entire Church has full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered."
- 3) As you look through the 2000 years of history of the Papacy, you will see that yes there were a few Popes that were very questionable and had bad behavior. But had nothing to do in dictating Faith and Morals, the Holy Spirit has led the Church all of these years from the very beginning.
- 4) When we talk about the Pope being infallible – we are talking about a charism in the Office for the protection of the Faith passed on by Christ. And when there is need for clarification, the Pope has the privilege of sitting in the Seat of Peter, and making a "From the Chair" statement – This is the Faith. This has only happened a handful of times in 2000 years.
- 5) His Office as a Pope is infallible – that is not a credit to a man – that is a credit to the Holy Spirit – that is a credit to Jesus Christ and His Church.

- F. When Christ instituted the twelve, He constituted them in the form of a college or permanent assembly at the head of which He placed Peter.

#### T5. Building His Church (Establish the New Covenant using the Old Covenant):

The Temple will be destroyed and there will be a new Temple. The Kingship of David is going to go away and someone will assume the Kingship of David forever. The Gebirah, Queen Mother, (see question #9 in Part 1 Questions) will go away and the real will come, Mary the fullness, will come. The Prime Minister in the Kingdom of David will go away, and there will be the real fulfillment of the Prime Minister in the Kingdom, and that is the Pope.

- A. When Jesus speaks about building the Church – the Kingdom and the Church are synonymous. I will build My Church upon the Rock and give you the keys to the Kingdom.
- B. What does it mean when someone's name is changed in the Bible: Simon, I am going to call you Peter and upon this Rock I will build My Church. Jesus changes Peter name:

- 1) In OT this was a sign of a change in vocation e.g. Abram, Gen 17, Jacob, Gen 32 – vocation change – your role in the Kingdom is going to change.
  - 2) Peter is going to go from an Apostle to one who holds the Keys and as a special charism.
- C.** Jesus said, upon this Rock, I am going to build My Church:
- 1) Term Rock – some argue that in Matt 16, Jesus is referring to Himself.
  - 2) In Greek, Jesus is pointing to Peter as the Rock.
- D.** Term Rock in OT is used metaphorically for protection, refuge, and it used in relation to both God and Leaders. Rock in OT is not only to refer to God, but can also refer to a man as a Rock.
- 1) Rock refers to Yahweh, God – Psalm 95:1: “I Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; cry out to the rock of our salvation.” Rock speaks of stability, faithfulness – God is a Rock.
  - 2) Isaiah 51:1-2: speaks of Abraham as a Rock: “Listen to me, you who pursue justice, who seek the LORD; Look to the rock from which you were hewn, to the pit from which you were quarried; Look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth; When he was but one I called him, I blessed him and made him many.”
- E.** Peter is going to be known as a Rock – just like Abraham and Yahweh. Just like Abraham was the Father of the nation – Israel, Peter will be a Father, a Rock, to the new covenant.
- F.** Rock that Temple was built on in the OT was Mount Moriah – 2Chron 3:1. Foundation stone for the Temple that Solomon built was call the Ebenshetia.
- 1) The Jews believed that when the waters parted after creation, this stone was the first to appear on Mount Moriah.
  - 2) Also believed that this stone was where Abraham was going to offer Isaac.
  - 3) Jews believed that the only place the Temple could be built was on Mount Moriah.
  - 4) Rabbis saw this stone as the pillar of the earth and the navel of the earth. Solomon built it.
- G.** Upon this Rock, I will build My Church – this says to all hearing this that God is building His Temple. “This Rock” carries tremendous meaning – He is going to build a new Temple. He is building a new Temple – called the Church.
- 1) In Mt 7:24: Jesus says everyone who hears this words of mine and does them, will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock.
  - 2) Jesus also said the powers of hell will not prevail. It was believed that the Ebenshetia, capstone on Mount Moriah covered the opening to hades.
  - 3) Solomon is the wise builder in the OT. Jesus said that someone greater than Solomon is here Mt 12:42. Who is that greater builder – Jesus. Just like the wise builder in the OT, Jesus is building His house on the Rock. It is not a physical rock on Mount Moriah – it is Peter.
  - 4) Jews believed that the Temple would be made without hands. When the Messiah arrived, the Temple would appear. In Mark 14:57-58: Some took the stand and testified falsely against him, alleging, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands and within three days I will build another not made with hands.'"

- 5) He is building a new Temple, but not like the stone Temple – it is the Church and Peter is the Rock He is building it on.

## T6.OT Text on the Papacy:

- A. Kingdom of David had a position called the Albiel (house). Albiel was a position like a Prime Minister, an office.
- B. Function of the Albiel (Prime Minister) was went the King was gone, the Prime Minister had the authority and ran the Kingdom. He also had the authority of the King.

- 1) In one situation, one of the Kings of Judah has leprosy and his son is then over the household. Term used with Joseph and Kings over the household – one who is over the household. In Hebrew that is a technical phrase for an Office (over the household).
- 2) Isaiah 22:15-25 – we have an example: One being taken out Shebna and Eliakim being brought in to take his position as the vicar, Prime Minister, or as the pope.

“Thus says the Lord, the GOD of hosts: Up, go to that official, Shebna, master of the palace, Who has hewn for himself a sepulcher on a height and carved his tomb in the rock: "What are you doing here, and what people have you here, that here you have hewn for yourself a tomb?" The LORD shall hurl you down headlong, mortal man! He shall grip you firmly And roll you up and toss you like a ball into an open land To perish there, you and the chariots you glory in, you disgrace to your master's house!

19: I will thrust you from your **office** and pull you down from your station. On that day I will summon my servant Eliakim, son of Hilkiah; 21: I will clothe him with your **robe**, and gird him with your sash, and give over to him your **authority**. He shall be a **father** to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah.

22: I will place the **key of the House of David** on his shoulder; **when he opens, no one shall shut, when he shuts, no one shall open**. 23: I will fix him like a **peg in a sure spot**, to be a **place of honor** for his family; 24: On him shall hang all the **glory of his family**: descendants and offspring, all the little dishes, from bowls to jugs. On that day, says the LORD of hosts, the peg fixed in a sure spot shall give way, break off and fall, and the weight that hung on it shall be done away with; for the LORD has spoken.”

- C. That is a description of the Prime Minister, the Pope, the Vicar, the Albiel. Notice what it says about the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is:

- 1) Verse 19: it is an Office,
- 2) Verse 21: Prime Minister is clothe with a Robe,
- 3) Verse 21: Prime Minister had Authority,
- 4) Verse 21:, Prime Minister refer to Father,
- 5) Verse 22: Prime Minister processed the Keys of house of David,
- 6) Verse 22: Prime Minister had power to Bind and Loose,
- 7) Perse 23: Prime Minister was fasten like a Peg and Sure Place,
- 8) Verse 23: Prime Minister had a throne of Honor,
- 9) Verse 24: Whole weight of his father house Hung on him.

- D. Binding and Loosing – He is given the Keys to the Kingdom. Keys of the Kingdom is Authority. Person has authority to Bind and Loose.

“The term Binding and Loosing is a juridical term associated with the Rabbinic Canon Law of the First Century. They represented the legislative and judicial powers of the Rabbinic Office. The power of Binding and Loosing allows authority to prohibit or permit.”

- E.** As the Steward of God's Kingdom, Peter is given the authority to Bind and Loose. This entails more than opening Heaven's Door to those who believe the Gospel.
  - 1) Protestant Scholar, M. Vincent, explains: "No other terms were in more constant use in Rabbinic Canon Law than Binding and Loosing. They represented the legislative and judicial powers of the Rabbinic Office. These powers, Christ now transferred in their reality to His Apostles, the first here to Peter."
  - 2) Aramaic Scholar and Protestant, George Lamsa, say, "He has the Key. It means he can declare certain things to be lawful and others unlawful. That is to Bind or to Loose, or to prohibit or permit, or to forgive."
- F.** Peter represents the Apostles before God, and Jesus prays for him exclusively that he in turn can support his fellow Apostles. This perfectly exemplifies the Primacy of Peter and his collegiality with the other Bishops. Jesus also appoints Peter the Shepherd of His sheep with the universal Church in view.
- G.** When Peter receives the Keys to the Kingdom, he is receiving authority as the leader of the Church. In John 16: Jesus said to the Apostles, I will not leave you as orphans, I am going to give you a helper, the Holy Spirit. He will reveal to you all things.
- H.** Jesus gives Peter the Keys to the Kingdom which means that as the Prime Minister and Pope, what he binds is bound that is how closely the spirit of God is working with the leadership of the Church.
  - 1) We may not like the leadership the Church, we might not like some of the things that they might even do, but there is authority there to bind and loose.
  - 2) Which means what the Church says is allowed, Christ says its allowed. What the Church says is not permitted through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Christ is saying is not permitted. Jesus is going to rule His Church, He is going to guide and lead His Church through the Papacy and leadership of the Church.
  - 3) This is what happened in the OT, God always lead His Church through people.
- I.** Going to follow the authority that Christ established. The authority that has been recognized all the way up to the Reformation. Yes, we needed a Reformation, but we did not need to split and start new churches.

## **T7.Conclusion**

- A.** Jesus said in John's Gospel – When they hear you, they hear me. I want to hear Christ. Jesus is my Shepherd, He's the one who going to take care of me, He gave me a Church, He gave authority, He said listen.
- B.** We can hear Christ, in the leadership of the Church, in the tradition of the Church all throughout the years, which gives us a tremendous certitude that my life is built on the Rock, which has been consistent for 2000 years.
- C.** Jesus has given us the great gift of Peter and leadership of the Church, to lead us and to guide us.
- D.** That is the role of the Pope, to hold the house together in unity, to support the truth, teach the truth, and call people to prayer.