

03172024 Sunday Coming but Friday had to be arranged...Last week we examined Jesus coordinating the setup of his going to the cross. It looked like Jesus was a victim...in one sense He was as he suffered unjustly, for he had committed no wrong...on the other hand it was the plan to deliver humans from death and condemnation, to salvation and eternal life...so Do not ever mistake ...bad times, hard times, trouble, or trials, disappointment, as an end in itself .. or as an indication that Jesus is not in charge...he is always in charge...and his plans never fail...ever!!

We take a step back today and examine three things Jesus wanted his disciples to know as he makes his way to Jerusalem and the cross

1. Jesus is **Revealed** by God the Father to his disciples who Jesus is The Rock
2. Jesus **REVEALS** for the first time the church...the called out ones...who will be built upon the Rock
3. Jesus **Reveals** that his church (the called out ones) will have power to attack the strongholds of the enemy... kingdom of darkness...and that the enemy will not overcome the church

We must go back 6 months or to the winter...before his death and resurrection **Jesus intentionally takes his disciples to a city 25 miles or so north of the Gallilee the area where he had been doing the bulk of his ministry Caesarea Philippi**

NLT Matt 16: ¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples.....

Caesarea Philippi (Latin: "Philip's city of Caesar") was built by Herod's son Philip on a large plateau sits at the foot of Mount Hermon the highest mountain in Israel (9100 feet), it is the water source of the Jordan river and the lake of Gallilee. it was also called the City of Pagans

Show First Picture ... Picture of Gates of Hades or Hell..

- **Caesarea Philippi, butts up against a large cliff, referred to as the 'Rock of the gods', in reference to the many shrines built against it.**
- **In the center of the Rock of the gods is a huge cave, from which a stream flowed out from the rock beneath the mouth of the cave.**

- **This cave was called the “Gates of Hades”, because it was believed that Baal, and the Greek Mythological gods would enter and leave the underworld through this cave.**
- **Greeks and Romans believed that Hades/Hell (place of the dead Hades...) was under the earth, and that a number of rivers flowed to and from it. It was believed by the Pagans that the underground spring coming from the cave had to be from Hades – a gateway to and from the underworld.**
- **Because of this, the site was called "The Gates of Hell." where Hell meets the earth..the entrance of the underworld to the outer world...they would come and go through this Gate!**

Now Greek and Roman worshipers of these gods/demons carved niches into the cliff and placed idols into each one.

- **Show Second Picture of the niches... Here are some of the niches in the rock formation. Pan, Baal a god of fertility, sexuality and nature.**
- **Temples and courtyards built to worship other gods Caesar, Zeus, Hermes stood nearby**
- **Several other shrines and temples stood here including the large one to Caesar. The niches in the wall held images of the gods Pan, Echo and Hermes.**
- **People came to make sacrifices and engage in religious open air sexual activity.**
- **Especially to the demon Pan Shrine, located next to the cave mouth, this large niche, held a statue of Pan (a half-goat, half-human creature), Worshipers of Pan would congregate and partake in open air sexual activities.. –and there were other sacrifices and activities associated with the other gods/demons day and night**

Jesus' taking his disciples as a destination to this place...the gates of Hell...the entrance into the home of the demons...must have blew their minds!!. For the Jews, this setting was blasphemous and horrifying and they would not be caught dead there, yet this is where Jesus takes His disciples....

...Jesus disciples looking around...andwitnessing entering and exiting temples worshipping idols engaging in all kinds of activities not to mention

the and the strong presence of the demonic.....while also seeing the beautiful and lush landscape surrounding the headwater of the Jordan River flowing out of the mouth of this huge Cave...

Why would Jesus do this?? Because He was going to present a clear challenge with his words at Caesarea Philippi: He does not want his followers hiding from evil: He wanted them to storm the gates of hell...the church will be built right in front of those gates....

But first and this will be a first...Know who Jesus is? So he ask them a question?

Matt 16: ¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

Jesus asks the safe question “Who do people-others say that I am?”

- Safe because to answer it required no conviction, no commitment, and no risk. All it requires repeating back hearsay...
- **The Disciples said...the most popular description out is you are a reincarnation of John the Baptist, Elijah or Jeremiah..or possibly even a new prophet...**
- **Then he asked them who they think he is ...this is the first time he asks them this question...**

¹⁵ Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?”

- Jesus does not ask them out of the blue ...he ask them from what they have heard and witnessed and participated in... Jesus gave sight to the blind, restored hearing to the deaf. He cured lepers. Delivered the possessed, Healed the sick. Jesus raised the dead.
- **He teaches with authority; he dines with sinners; he helps the helpless; releases those bound, he defends the poor and the weak. ...all that revelation yet many did not believe...**

So he asks the disciples then makes it personal to Peter who you call Jesus changes everything... all of us at some point must answer that question for ourselves...

¹⁶ *Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”*

- **Peter’s Confession of Christ is a first for the apostles...Peter correctly identified who Jesus was “The Christ” the anointed one...the Messiah...**

MT 16: 17 Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.

- **You did not get this revelation from your Dad, nor did you get it because you are smarter, more religious, better trained, or any earthly means!**
- **My Father Revealed it to you! Its a supernatural revelation!**
- **You must have this revelation from God before you are given any more revelation from God...**
- **Revelation is built upon Revelation...that is why we are ever learning about God...**

Jesus reveals the next revelation...this revelation is what the church will be built upon!

Matt 16: 18 and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

What Rock? Jesus is is the rock the foundation ...there is the rock (cliff) of the demons behind us.. And I am the Rock from which the church will be built upon... , which will be made up of living stones ...

This Rock's power against that Rock's power! and the underworld will not conquer it...

*****Then he reveals the third revelation...**

¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.”

Because the keys of kingdom authority have been given to the church!

- **Keys mean authority and supernatural power ...who has keys has the power to unlock and lock doors! you lock up the underworld with the key given of power given from Heaven! given from above**
- **You will have the power to bind...hinder...lock up...restrain .. tie up..you will have binding power in the supernatural....in the supernatural because you belong to the Kingdom of the supernatural..**
- **and you will be able to loose...or unlock, free up, release...deliver those in bondage held by the enemies of God!**
- **Peter received that revelation... and authority**

*****And that revelation was only for them at this time...**

²⁰ Then he sternly warned the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

- **And he says the people will not accept this revelation yet.... It is too much...Until after the resurrection..**

*****Because of these revelations** Then Jesus reveals to them for the first time... and this after a year and a half of following him

MT 16: 21 From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead.

They experience their first crisis of faith in Jesus...He tells them a plan they are in no way ready or willing to accept...and they fight him about it...typical maturing process..

So Peter starts his ministry of binding on the wrong foot... Tries to bind Jesus...

²² But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. "Heaven forbid, Lord," he said. "This will never happen to you!"

Peter rebukes "The Lord revelations" for having a plan that Peter does not agree with...Because it does not fit his human reasoning and plans...how he thought God would act or should act...

- Be careful of calling what God speaks as wrong...even today...people speak of God's word as being wrong when it does not fit what they think...and attempt to bind it...
- But know this..every new revelation brings some kind of persecution from those who do not want that revelation!

²³ Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's."

And the Lord calls him Satan for he has not the mind of Christ (i.e. will of Christ) so is actually against Christ...like Satan...

- **He is trying to bind God's will like Satan does! Why? because Satan is always trying to drive the word of God out of us!!**
- like Jesus parable of the seed of God's word being sown on the four soils...

Mark 4: ¹⁵ The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away.

Remember they are in the region of the gate of Hades...where the demons enter into the affairs of men from the underworld...

- Peter just messed up real bad, with the Lord...I wonder what Jesus is going to do?
- Well let's see....he gives him a third new revelation!

MT 16: 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. ²⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. ²⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?"

If you want to walk in the Revelation you have received and effectively use the keys of the Kingdom (power to lock and unlock) you have to give up following you!!.....

- **what does it mean to lose your life? it means to be willing to lose all that you hold dear in how you think this life ought to go...and how Jesus ought to act this life?**
- **The power you have attained, the position you have worked all your life to achieve, the financial house you have spent your life building and finally attained... the relationship you so needall of what you want and how you view life are given up! Not necessarily given up but are now held loosely and given to God to control....**
- **You have to give up leading your life...and follow what I say and where I take you!**
- **The truth is you will be separated from everything here at some point.... so if you could possibly make everything go your way...you will lose it anyway! so the decision is simple really**
- **if I want to gain the keys of the Kingdom I have to give up wanting to possess keys of the earth.....**
- **the paradox of our faith... to gain I must lose....i keep and lose... or I lose and gain and this is a great trade... it will be good for you...and you will be rewarded...**
- **and Ps ...some of you will live longer than others...there is a great upside**

²⁷ For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds. ²⁸ And I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Son of Man coming in his Kingdom."

- **Why does Jesus do this? Revelation gives greater knowledge which gives greater authority and power ...or Keys to lock and unlock the Supernatural kingdom**
- **they received the key of greater faith! through Revelation...Peter had the faith to acknowledge who I was to him...but still thought along with other disciples that his plans were as valid, as well thought out as I....**
- **Remember I was building twelve men on whom his message would be sent to the world but they were men like other men...they still needed to be built up...**
- **So that is what he did....**

So what does this mean to you and I?

- **the keys are supernatural revelation followed by authority...they are gained as we follow Jesus...denying ourselves leadership and following his will as he reveals it...**
- **there are many keys ..and keys possess authority! there is the key of the power of forgiveness... key of the power of generosity, key of healing, when you love you bind the enemy and loose healing.. ...key of casting out demons... key of prophecy, tongues, key of wisdom...the key of faith with the power to overcome suffering...the key of the power of Joy! all revealed as we follow Jesus...**
- **we grow through Revelation....and Revelation is progressive... but you must be receptive**
- **Every Revelation comes from God and changes you by giving you a key to now loose and bind ...which before you did not previously possess**
- **We all have different key as we grow...but know this the babes among us have great spiritual authority ...speak it**
- **and be open to learning more... ...until he returns!**

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