

“I Will Build My Church – Part 2”  
Mark 8:27-29; Matthew 16:13-20  
(Preached at Trinity, September 28, 2011)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. We’ve been looking at the all-important question Jesus asked His disciples.  
"But who do you say that I am?"  
It is a very personal question demanding a very personal answer.
2. Peter’s answer is the most important answer that a man can give:  
**Matthew 16:16 NAU** - ""You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.""
  - A. By calling Jesus Christ Peter knew that He was the long-awaited Anointed One who was ordained by the Father. By calling Him the “Son of the living God” he was proclaiming the deity of Christ.
  - B. In other words, Peter was declaring that Jesus was who He said He was. He was the one long promised by the prophets – the Redeemer of the world.
3. For several Wednesday night sermons I’ve directed your attention to **Matt. 16:18**  
**Matthew 16:18 NAU** - ""I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."
  - A. I stressed that the Roman Catholic position that Peter is the rock upon which the church was built cannot be. The church rests upon no mere man. Rather, the church is built upon the true Rock, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus alone is the bedrock upon which the church is built. It is upon this foundation that the church stands invincible and victorious until the end –  
“the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”
  - B. Last time I began developing our Lord’s statement:  
upon this rock I will build My church
    1. First, I distinguished between the church universal and the local church. The universal church is that body which consists of all of the redeemed. The local church is single, local, individual, particular representation of the universal church.
      - The universal church is perfect – only the redeemed are a part of the universal church.
      - No local church can be said to be perfect either in doctrine or membership, yet we should strive for perfection.
    2. As the church is presented in the NT the distinction between the Church Universal and the Local Church often fades.
      - a. It is not improper to declare that our particular local church is the Bride of Christ.
      - b. In the first three chapters of Revelation we find Christ dwelling in the midst of His churches – local churches.
      - c. In this passage here in Matthew we find a confessional church – Peter’s grand confession – Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
      - d. The church is primarily a visible organization

3. Next, we gave particular attention to our Lord's use of personal pronouns here - "I will build"
    - Jesus is the master builder of the church – both universal and local
    - Although Jesus never started a particular local church in a strict sense, it can be said that every church is formed under His authority and with His blessing. Without His authority and blessing a church cannot be said to be a church.
    - It is of His making. No one can add himself to the church universal and we should also see our membership in a local church in the same manner – by Divine appointment.
  3. Then we gave attention to the pronoun "my." Jesus has ownership of the church – "I will build My church"
    - Jesus owns the church. He is the Head of the Church. He has preeminence. Peter referred to Jesus as the Chief Shepherd.
    - We function under an absolute monarchy. Jesus is our high Potentate. Jesus owns the church. Jesus has all rights over the church.
  4. It was my original intention to pass quickly over this verse covering it in three sermons:
    - One dealing with the foundation of the church – "Upon this Rock"
    - One dealing with the nature of the church itself – "I Will Build My Church"
    - And one dealing with the church victorious – "The gates of Hades will not overpower it."
  5. About midway through my sermon on the church last time it occurred to me that this is too important of a topic to breeze by. So I want us to dig in our heels and settle in for a season and look at this important subject – "The Church"
- I. First of all I want us to look a bit more at the pronoun "My" "upon this rock I will build My church"
- The pronoun stands alone – it could be read, "Upon this Rock I will build the Church, namely MY Church."
- A. Last time I stated that this implies ownership
    1. He is the Head of the Church. He has preeminence.  
**Colossians 1:18 NAS** - "He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything."
    2. The KJV translates the word better:  
**Colossians 1:18 KJV** - "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence."  
The ESV also translates it this way.
  - B. The question is, how did Jesus gain this preeminence in the Church? How did He acquire ownership of the church?
    1. We have to go back into eternity before anything was created. Scripture refers to this as "Before the foundation of the world."
    2. Nothing existed but God in the fulness of His divine being. Although nothing existed, everything existed in God's infinite mind as His eternal Decree. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit existed as One God, fully satisfied, fully sufficient.

3. In eternity God made a covenant within the context of His Divine being. The Father looked upon the fallen race of humanity and set His love upon them and determined to claim them as His own. It is important to understand that God looked upon human beings as they stood in the corruption of their own sin and chose them entirely apart from any foreseen merit – there was nothing good in any man.  
**Psalm 53:2-3 NAS** - "God has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men, To see if there is anyone who understands, Who seeks after God. <sup>3</sup> Every one of them has turned aside; together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one."
4. Everyone of God's chosen or elect people were corrupted by sin—and this was a problem. God is holy. He is infinitely holy. And in His infinite holiness His anger, His holy wrath is enflamed with infinite intensity against all that is not holy. In His wrath He was ready to consume them.
5. So the Father turns to the Son and in His infinite love and perfect delight in Him declares that He has determined to deliver to Him a gift.  
 "I have chosen for you a people as your inheritance."  
**Psalm 2:7-8 NAS** - "'I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee. <sup>8</sup> 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Thy possession."
6. The Church has been given to Christ  
**John 6:37 NAS** - "All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out."
7. There is something even more precious:  
 "I am betrothing them to You as Your Bride."
8. But there is a terrible problem. They are all defiled. They are corrupt. They are abominable and disgusting. Their vileness rises up to My nostrils and my anger is stirred against them.
9. Here's what I want you to do. I want you to descend to earth.  
**Ephesians 4:9 NAS** - "He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?"
  - a. I want you to enter into their humanity. I want you to take on human flesh. I want you to become a man.
  - b. I want you to live a perfect life. I want you to fulfill all of the demands of My Holy Law.
  - c. I want you to shed your most holy blood as an atoning sacrifice for their sin so that My wrath might be turned away from them. I want you to be crucified on the cursed cross.  
**Galatians 3:13 NAS** - "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us-- for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"

10. And the Son says to the Father, “All that you desire of me to do I will fulfil in every way.

**John 6:38-39 NAS** - "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. <sup>39</sup> "And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day."

**Philippians 2:6-8 NAS** - "although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

C. So we see that the church is beloved by Christ.  
“upon this rock I will build My church”

1. Upon what Rock – upon that glorious Rock sent of the Father, declared of the prophets - **Matthew 16:16 NAU** - "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

2. Yes, our Lord’s betrothed was vile, ugly, and horribly deformed  
But He came that she might be cleansed and covered with an infinite beauty not her own – that she might be covered with the beauty of the Divine.

**Ephesians 5:25-27 NAS** - "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; <sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless."

3. “upon this rock I will build My church”  
“My Church, My bride, My beloved”

Jesus came with intensity, He came with intentionality, with His church upon His heart. He came with a motivation of unconditional love.

#### Conclusion:

1. There is one more glorious truth. There is a glorious offer to become one of these beloved ones – It’s called the Gospel.

2. You may say, these things are wonderful but too wonderful for me. I am too wicked. Then you are in an excellent place. Jesus came to die for sinners like you. Lay your wickedness before the Cross of Christ—trust His infinite excellence.

3. You may say, these things are wonderful but how do I know that the Father chose me and gave me to the Son? Flee to Christ and embrace Him and follow Him. The only ones who do this are those who *have* been chosen by God. Our consistent life of following Christ is testimony to His grace in our lives.

#### **See 2 Peter 1:1-10**

4. Christ has grace for all who come. But for those who refuse; for those who insist in going their own way; for those who deny the Christ of the Gospel, there is nothing else but facing the fire of His wrath and Divine judgment.

**Mark 16:15-16 KJV** - "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup> He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."