

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20 & 18:1-6 Heidelberg Cat. 31.83-84
Singing: 168:1-5 – 290:3-7 -- 420:1-2 – 255:3-4

Observe *context* in which Jesus granted His disciples the *keys of the Kingdom*

- A. He led them to a *firmer footing*: Ch. 16:13-19
- B. He led them to *greater understanding of His mission*: Ch. 16:21-29
- C. He led into a *strong confirmation of His glory and power*: Ch. 17
- D. He led to see *how to deal with sinners and their sin*: Ch. 19:1-14; 21-35
- E. He led them to *clear directions*: Ch. 18:15-20

THE KEYS OF GOD’S KINGDOM (1)

I. Who owns these keys? II. Who are called to use these keys?

III. How are these keys to be used?

I. WHO OWNS THESE KEYS?

- A. Jesus handed over *His* keys (Matt. 16:19)
 - 1. Teaches that He has the supreme authority and power over all of our lives
 - 2. Teaches us that merely made others stewards of His keys

II. WHO ARE ALLOWED TO USE THESE KEYS?

- A. All those Christ called to **lead** in church: Matt. 16:19; 18:18 & John 20:23
 - 1. In Matt. 16:19: Jesus used ‘singular’ (thee) to speak to Peter
 - 2. in Matt. 18:18 & John 20:23 Jesus used ‘plural: *His disciples – church*
- B. Further NT teaching narrowed it to *those appointed by God thru church*
 - 1. God distinguishes two kinds of elders: 1 Tim. 5:17; 1 Thess. 5:12-13
 - a. those that rule
 - b. those that teach
 - 2. Each kind of elder received one key of the Kingdom
 - a. Ruling Elders: *key of Christian discipline*
 - b. Teaching Elders: *key of preaching of Gospel* (elders oversee)
 - 3. Both offices are to be *lawfully obtained* through God’s calling: Rom. 10:15 and 1 Tim. 3 and Titus 1

III. How is the key of *preaching of the Gospel* to be used?

A. Through the preaching of the 'holy Gospel' to every hearer

1. The preaching of Law *closes for us all access to God – Kingdom of God*

2. But the preaching of Gospel *opens the access to King & all His benefits*
 - a. in the Gospel God declares He has thoughts of peace (2 Cor. 5:19-20)

 - b. in the Gospel Jesus declares His ableness and willingness: Rev. 3:20

 - c. what is God's design in preaching this Gospel to us? Canons 3/4, art 19

B. Through preaching of God's justifying declaration of all believers

1. Isaiah 40:1-2 – Is. 3:10 – Acts 10:43 - 1 John 2:12 - 1Cor. 6:11

2. God's ambassadors received a key to open Gospel treasures
 - a. consider the assurance of God's Gospel promise: John 3:18 a & 36a

 - b. consider the 'woe if a preacher does not preach the Gospel'

C. Through preaching of God's declaration to all unbelievers and insincere

1. Is. 3:11 - John 3:18b – 36b
 - a. to be unconverted is to be disobedient to Acts 3:19 & 17:30

 - b. do not soothe and put yourself to sleep with wrong thinking about your conversion

 - c. heed God's call before you hear God's sentence: Acts 3:23

 - d. fear to meet a rejected and dishonored God and Jesus: Heb 2:3

 - e. know there will be multiple witnesses on God's side

2. Be reminded: *God will not always have 'grace-days'* (Is. 55:6-7)
 - a. the time is short – the eternity is long

 - b. hasten to Him you angered as He is still near to save you (Acts 5:31)

