



CHURCH & CULTURE

AMBASSADORS OF HEAVEN

Matthew 16:13-19

Matthew 16:18, . . . I will build **my church (ekklesia)**, and the **gates of Hades** will not overcome it.

Names are significant because they reveal the nature and purpose of people and things.

Isaiah 9:6 (NASB), For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us . . . **And His name will be called** Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Matthew 1:21 (NASB), She (Mary) will give birth to a Son; and you (Joseph) shall name Him **Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.**

James 1:20-21(TPT); Matthew 14:1-2, 13

Events Leading Up to Jesus' Announcement of His Church

- 1) Herod's desire for Jesus death. (Matthew 14:1-12; Luke 13:31-32)
- 2) Jesus fed 5,000 Jewish men and their families. (Matthew 14:13-21)
Isaiah 25:6, **On this mountain the LORD Almighty** will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples.
❖ **Scholars term the feeding of the 5,000 families the Messianic banquet.**
- 3) Jesus walks on water and saves His disciples' lives in a storm. (Matthew 14:22-36)
- 4) Jesus teaches His disciples about defilement. (Matthew 15:1-20)
- 5) The faith of a Canaanite (Gentile) woman. (Matthew 15:21-22)
- 6) Jesus fed 4,000 Gentile men and their families. (Matthew 15:29-39)
Isaiah 25:6, On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food **for all peoples.**
- 7) The Pharisees and Sadducees demand a sign. (Matthew 16:1-4)
- 8) Jesus teaches on the Yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees. (Matthew 16:5-12)

The Church Jesus Envisioned . . .

1) Helps people **find clarity** from God amidst confusion.

Matthew 16:13-14, ¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

At Caesarea Philippi:

1. Temple of Pan - confusion false religion brings
2. Temple of Caesar - confusion man's government brings
3. Gates of Hades - confusion evil spirits bring

Ephesians 6:12; Acts 4:12

2) Helps people **experience God** as opposed to merely educating.

Jesus used these elements to define His church:

1. Salt - preserve life (Matthew 5:13)
2. Light - banish ignorance (Matthew 5:14)
3. Yeast - cause life to arise in everything (Matthew 13:33)

Matthew 16:15-16, ¹⁵"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

3) Helps people **overcome** what brings bondage and accept what unleashes life.

Matthew 16:17-19, ¹⁷Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build **my church (Ekklessia)**, and **the gates of Hades will not overcome it**. ¹⁹I will give you the **keys of the kingdom** of heaven; whatever you **bind on earth** will be bound in heaven, and whatever you **loose on earth** will be loosed in heaven."

- ❖ Synagogue - a place where people met for worship and instruction in Jewish faith communities
- ❖ Ekklessia - an assembly of voting citizens who met to discuss the affairs of their society

Ephesians 4:15, Instead, speaking **the truth in love**, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

Questions:

- 1) What did you hear from the Holy Spirit?
- 2) What will you do because of it?
- 3) How can we pray for you?