

Chapter Sixteen

Upon This Rock!

I. Introduction

- A. Jesus now turns His attention to preparing the disciples to stand on their own two feet soon
- B. They have to start figuring things out quick because Jesus is rapidly focusing on Jerusalem and being killed there
- C. They have to start learning about a whole new concept called “the church”
- D. There was already the following concepts in the Old Testament
 - 1. The _____ – the entire nation of Israel, when gathered together were called the congregation of the righteous when they sought God
 - 2. The _____ – another name for the gathering of the nation of Israel to obey God
 - 3. This was referred back to as “the church in the wilderness” (Acts 7:38)
 - 4. The _____ – a small scale gathering of Jewish believers in the Scriptures, who met on the Sabbath to hear the Old Testament read and expounded
- E. Now a new concept is introduced – _____ – this is the first mention of it, and ONLY _____ records Jesus ever using this word and concept.

II. Lesson

A. The Pharisees and Sadducees Are Rebuked (16:1-4)

1. Sadducees
 - a. The Sadducees were _____. They tended to be wealthy and held powerful positions, including that of chief priests and high priest, and they held the majority of the _____ seats of the ruling council called the Sanhedrin. They usually, pragmatically with the decisions of Rome, and they seemed to be more concerned with _____ than religion.
 - b. Because they were accommodating to Rome and were the wealthy upper class, they did not relate well to the common man, nor did the common man hold them in high opinion. The common man related better to those who belonged to the party of the Pharisees.
 - c. Though the Sadducees held the majority of seats in the Sanhedrin, history indicates that much of the time they had to go along with the ideas of the Pharisaic minority, because the Pharisees were popular with the masses.
 - d. Here is a brief list of beliefs they held that contradict Scripture:
 - 1) They were extremely _____ to the point of denying God's involvement in everyday life.
 - 2) They denied any _____ of the dead (Matthew 22:23; Mark 12:18-27; Acts 23:8).
 - 3) They denied any _____, holding that the soul perished at death, and therefore denying any penalty or reward after the earthly life.
 - 4) They denied the existence of a _____ world, i.e., angels and demons (Acts 23:8).
 - e. The Sadducees ceased to exist in A.D. 70. Since this party existed because of their political and priestly ties, when Rome destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in A.D. 70, the Sadducees were also destroyed.
2. Pharisees
 - a. Mostly middle-class businessmen, and therefore were in contact with the common man.
 - b. The Pharisees were held in much higher esteem by the common man than the Sadducees. Though they were a minority in the Sanhedrin and held a minority number of positions as priests, they seemed to control the decision making of the Sanhedrin far more than the Sadducees did, again because they had the support of the people.
 - c. Religiously, they accepted the written Word as inspired by God. At the time of Christ's earthly ministry, this would have been what is now our Old Testament.

- d. But they also gave equal authority to _____ tradition and attempted to defend this position by saying it went all the way back to Moses. Evolving over the centuries, these traditions added to God's Word, which is forbidden (Deuteronomy 4:2), and the Pharisees sought to strictly obey these traditions along with the Old Testament. The Gospels abound with examples of the Pharisees treating these traditions as equal to God's Word (Matthew 9:14; 15:1-9; 23:5; 23:16, 23, Mark 7:1-23; Luke 11:42). However, they did remain true to God's Word in reference to certain other important doctrines.
 - e. In contrast to the Sadducees, they believed the following:
 - 1) They believed that God controlled all things, yet decisions made by individuals also contributed to the course of a person's life.
 - 2) They believed in the resurrection of the dead (Acts 23:6).
 - 3) They believed in an afterlife, with appropriate reward and punishment on an individual basis.
 - 4) They believed in the existence of angels and demons (Acts 23:8).
 - f. The Pharisees gave oral tradition equal authority to the written Word of God, while the Sadducees considered only the written Word to be from God, limiting it to the books of Moses (Genesis through Deuteronomy).
 - g. Though the Pharisees were rivals of the Sadducees, they managed to set aside their differences on one occasion—the trial of Christ. It was at this point that the Sadducees and Pharisees united to put Christ to death (Mark 14:53; 15:1; John 11:48-50).
 - h. While the Sadducees ceased to exist after the destruction of Jerusalem, the Pharisees, who were more concerned with religion than politics, continued to exist. In fact, the Pharisees were against the rebellion that brought on Jerusalem's destruction in A.D. 70, and they were the first to make peace with the Romans afterward. The Pharisees were also responsible for the compilation of the Mishnah, an important document with reference to the continuation of Judaism beyond the destruction of the temple.
3. Tempting Jesus
- a. Trying to draw Him into a fruitless argument that only would leave Him exposed as a fraud in the eyes of the people – at least, that was the hope
 - b. They sought to provoke Him to do something that He was not in charge of
4. Sought a sign, miracle, proof
- a. The Jews had a _____ to ask for, and even demand signs and wonders (1Cor 1:22)
 - b. But this was an not honest search for proof, but an endless debate of theirs
 - c. They had already seen dozens of undeniable miracles, but refused to believe
5. Jesus responds candidly
- a. They were able to foretell the weather
 - 1) Fair weather because the evening sky is red – usually same truth here
 - 2) Bad weather if the morning sky is red
 - b. But they cannot tell the _____ of the times
 - 1) Signs relating to the coming of the Messiah
 - 2) Signs of the restoration of the nation of Israel
 - 3) Signs that the Old testament prophecies were being fulfilled before their very eyes
 - c. It is a wicked and adulterous generation that seeks miracles
 - 1) Carnal, selfish, immature (1Cor 3)
 - 2) The most carnal church had all the signs and wonder gifts imaginable
 - d. No further sign will be given but the _____
 - 1) Jonah was a real prophet
 - 2) Actually, literally in the belly of a WHALE for 3 days and 3 nights (12:39,40)
 - 3) Jesus will be in the HEART of the earth for 72 hours as well

B. Jesus Warns About the Teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees (16:5-12)

1. They worried about not having any bread
2. Jesus warns them to beware of the _____ of the Pharisees and Sadducees
3. The disciples got hung up on the word _____ and reason that they were being warned about getting their _____ from the Pharisees and Sadducees
4. Jesus rebukes them!
 - a. They have so little faith yet
 - b. Reminds them of the 5 loaves and 2 fish feeding 5,000, with an embarrassing amount of fragments being taken back up
 - c. Then reminds them of the seven loaves and all the basket fulls that they had left over
 - d. Then tells them plainly that they have nothing to worry about with bread, but with the _____ (the _____) of the Pharisees and the Sadducees
 - e. Beware about the small amounts of _____ doctrine in both teachings
 - f. The same warning is for us today – knowing pure doctrine, well tested, is very important!

C. Jesus Teaches About _____ (16:13-20) – NOT about _____, and definitely not about _____

1. Asks how people see Him generally (16:13,14)
 - a. Some say that he is John the Baptist
 - b. Some say Elijah – Elijah WILL be resurrected
 - c. Some say Jeremiah
 - d. Some say one of the other prophets
 - e. As if one of them had been resurrected
2. Jesus asks them directly, But whom do _____ say that I am?
 - a. Peter speaks right up – Peter’s Confession:
 - b. *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*
 - c. What a hard thing for a Jew to believe:
 - 1) That God would have a _____ (Mt 14:33; John 6:69; see Psalm 2:7)
 - 2) That the Messiah was really alive and dwelling among them right then and there
 - 3) _____ is the Greek word for “Messiah”
 - d. The _____ also believed the same thing (Acts 8:37)
 - e. _____ believed in the Son part (John 1:49)
 - f. _____ came to believe it (Acts 9:20)
 - g. All people must believe this (John 20:31)
3. Such a confession is actually a _____ (Mt 16:17)
 - a. Nobody can just teach this truth and it be naturally believed – so impossible
 - b. God the Father has to reveal Himself and His Son to us
 - c. Salvation is not us just agreeing with God, but...

4. This TRUTH is then explained
 - a. The Founding
 - 1) *“flesh and blood hath not revealed _____ unto thee”*
 - 2) The “it” is a _____ upon which Jesus could build something
 - 3) What is the “IT”?
 - a) It is the _____ about Jesus; not about Peter
 - b) His Deity – there is no church without Deity
 - 4) Peter is only a _____ (petros) – only a piece of a rock
 - 5) THE Rock is a _____ (petra) – a massive rock

b. The Builder

- 1) Upon this rock (this truth, about who I am), I will build my church
- 2) Everything is God's work
- 3) All we are doing is entering into labour with God (1Cor 3:5-9)

c. The Project

- 1) "My Church" is a general term
- 2) Jesus does not say churches plural, as if there are multiple churches, but one _____ that he refers to as HIS Church
- 3) Church is the word ...
 - a) κυριακόν in Greek (it means the Lord's House)
 - b) *kirk* in Scottish
 - c) *kill* in Irish (ie, Kilbritain)
 - d) Icelandic & Faroese *kirkja*
 - e) Swedish *kyrka*
 - f) Norwegian & Danish *kirke*
 - g) German *Kirche*
 - h) Dutch *kerk*
 - i) West Frisian *tsjerke*
 - j) Estonian *kirik*
 - k) Finnish *kirkko*
- 4) It comes from the Greek word ekklesia which means "_____"
- 5) The church is a called out body of people. They have been called out of the world into the kingdom of God's dear Son (Col 1:13). It is the spiritual body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27). It is made up of those who have obeyed Christ (Heb 5:8-9). The church are those who have been saved by Him. He adds them to His church (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:47). Another way of saying it is the church is made up of the followers of Christ.

d. The Reach

- 1) _____ don't attack anyone
- 2) This is describing someone attacking the very gates of hell, and overpowering THEM
- 3) NOT some gates attacking some church and trying to overpower IT (like is dreamed up by the Catholic hierarchy)
- 4) This cannot be referring to "the church" doing anything, because the church never goes to hell
- 5) It only refers back to _____, who DOES go through hell to Paradise

5. The Keys (16:19)

- a. Keys of the kingdom of _____ – NOT of the kingdom of GOD!!!
- b. Whatsoever is bound or loosed here will be mirrored in heaven – tough Scripture
- c. Another Scripture in John 20:23 says, "Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained."
- d. Meaning:
 - 1) As in Binding in _____
 - a) Binding Satan (Mt 12:29)
 - b) Controlling or limiting sin
 - c) Healing (Job 5:18; Ps 147:3) like setting broken bones, or wounds
 - 2) As in Loosing in _____ (2Cor 2:10)
 - 3) Not that any of us can bring about _____ forgiveness of anyone
- e. The idea is that what we do on earth is mirrored in heaven
 - 1) Getting people to repent here, works in heaven
 - 2) When people reject the Gospel HERE, heaven accepts that as final!

- f. Peter was given the _____ to people's lives, and to their access into the coming kingdom. He used those keys on _____, and others throughout his ministry
6. The Restraint (16:20)
- a. Keep this understanding to yourselves right now
 - b. There will be a time soon enough to proclaim this (Mt 10:27)
- D. Peter Misunderstands What it Means to Follow Jesus (16:21-28)**
1. Jesus tries to explain four things:
 - a. That He must go unto Jerusalem,
 - b. That He must suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes,
 - c. That He must be killed,
 - d. That He must be raised again the third day!
 2. Peter _____ Jesus – says this will never be allowed to happen to Him
 3. Jesus rebukes _____ (Eph 6:12)
 - a. Satan was _____ Peter
 - b. Peter was speaking what Satan wanted said
 - c. Peter was thinking demonic thoughts
 - d. Peter had become possessed by Satan, but not like we usually mean it
 4. Jesus handles Satan in the following manner
 - a. He rebukes him
 - b. He moves Satan behind Him, so that He can press forward
 - c. He hates Satan and all his plans against Him
 - d. He uses the situation to explain the cost of following Jesus
 5. The cost of following Jesus
 - a. A choice – a commitment
 - b. A denial of self, and desires and the flesh
 - c. A trial, time of trouble and pain – our cross – as we stand with Jesus, no matter where He leads
 - d. A following of Jesus, even to death
 6. Why is it so important to get this concept right?
 - a. Because if we only look out for ourselves (seek only to gain in life), we will lose everything
 - b. But if we lose everything for Jesus' sake, we gain everything
 - c. The cost of a soul – more valuable than the entire earth – ONE soul!
 7. Jesus' Second Coming will be the time of reward of all men who follow Him (16:27). Quit trying to only _____ in this life!!!
 8. And three of them will get a taste of the Second Coming very soon (17:1-8)!
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