



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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I Will Build My Church

Focus Verse: Matthew 16:18 - And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Lesson Text: Matthew 16:13-20; Luke 5:1-11

Truth About God: Jesus calls disciples to follow Him.

Truth For My Life: I will be a disciple of Jesus.

Jesus went looking for disciples and entered Peter's boat and taught the people. Jesus saw the obvious; they had just returned from fishing and had caught nothing. Jesus told Peter, *"Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught"* (Luke 5:4). *"They caught a great multitude of fishes: and their net broke"* (Luke 5:6). The miracle of the fish revealed Jesus' identity. When Peter arrived at the shore to face Jesus, he collapsed to his knees and prayed, *"Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord"* (Luke 5:8).

Peter's divine encounter portrays an important truth. When we see God, the views of ourselves, others, and the world are radically altered. Encountering Jesus causes a radical paradigm shift in our lives. When we meet Jesus, our values change as we realign our lives to match His holy purpose. Peter began fishing for fish, but he left fishing for men.

Jesus came to build His church and His mission is about building a spiritual kingdom. The church consists of those who have been called out of the world and called together into Christ's kingdom that will one day be inaugurated upon the earth. Jesus gave the clearest and most precise definition of His mission in Luke 4:18-19: *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."* He was quoting a prophecy from Isaiah, and He announced the fulfillment of that prophecy.

The Gospel of Luke was the beginning of Jesus' ministry, but it is not the end. The Book of Acts is the continuation of Jesus' ministry through His disciples. **Through us, Jesus is still doing and teaching our world.** While many people have recognized Jesus as an important teacher, leader, even revolutionary, Jesus' messiahship is a spiritual revelation that comes from God alone.

It is hard to see how churches have become multimillion dollar buildings. While these building can be tremendous assets, we live in a world where instead of **being** the church, believers **attend** church. The church has become a place we go and a thing we do. There is little emphasis in the public consciousness of being the church. We must reflect on what kind of church we are bringing to our coworkers, family members, and friends. Regardless of our level of awareness and intentionality, we are bringing church to them. Just inviting people to a building reveals how we may have limited divine encounters to the physical location for the local church.

Perhaps the most dangerous thing about a church building is it has caused us to relegate faith to a place rather than to people. **The church is people, not a building.** We must retain our corporate identity as the body of Christ and be the church God is calling us to become. Jesus' love is not based on our worthiness or ability to return love. When we love others as Jesus has loved us, God abides with us and is perfected within us.

Jesus calls us to focus on our individual calling, ministry, and soul. Instead of communicating with God, we sometimes drag up another person and situation, offer God excuses, or become easily distracted. Our human nature has a terrible habit of hiding and blaming others when God comes seeking us. Our God has an intentional plan to develop a relationship with us, help us grow, and discover our callings. To facilitate this process, we must allow the Spirit to guide us closer to Him instead of moving away from Him.