

THE CHURCH
Part 1
“Upon This Rock” or “Cornerstone”
Matthew 16:1-20

What is the foundation of the church? What’s the problem with a building with a defective foundation?

1. The religious “powers that be” wanted a sign from heaven from Jesus.

a. Had they not been paying any attention? Think of what they had seen and heard.

The lame walked, the deaf heard, the blind saw, paralytics were healed etc., etc. It seems that they kept asking for a sign in the hope that there was one Jesus couldn’t perform. Rejection of Christ is often more an act of will and defiance than a struggle to believe.

b. They could read the weather but either couldn’t or wouldn’t connect the prophetic and visible “dots.” See Lke 17:20-21 - what was the missing ingredient?

What have you seen that points to Jesus?

2. Jesus warned His disciples against empty religion/hypocrisy.

a. He had already made plain to His followers His lordship over creation.

Despite this they completely missed the point and worried about forgetting bread. They knew the details of the feeding of the 5k and the 4k. They’d picked up the leftovers! What should those two miracles have taught them?

b. They needed to be on their guard against false teaching and hypocrisy. (See Lke 12:1; Mtt 23) - mere religion will take a person only one place - Hell.

Mere religion cannot save anyone

3. Christ Jesus is foundation, the cornerstone of the church. He and none other.

a. At Caesarea Philippi, a center of pagan idolatry/false worship Jesus asked His disciples a question: “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

- That is the paramount question for every person. He is the issue. (Jhn 8:24 - “I Am.” See also Jhn 8:58; 14:6; Act 4:12).
- People believed various things about Jesus - Some thought He was John the Baptist, some thought one of the prophets back from the dead. But what didn’t they think?

b. Our Lord then asked them the question: “But what about you? Come on, Who am I?”

- Peter spoke up and confessed that Jesus was the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the Living God. This is vital: See Jhn 5:16-23.
- Our Lord commended Peter and made a statement:
 - * Peter’s name meant “Rock.” Jesus had given that name to Simon (Jhn 1:40-42). And on this rock (Peter’s statement about who Jesus is) He would build His church.
 - * And, Jesus made it plain that His church would be unstoppable. Hell was doomed.
- And to Peter (and the other disciples - see Jhn 20:19-23) He had given the “keys” to the kingdom. See Mtt 18:18; Lke 11:52; Col 2:8-15; Rev 3:7 - the gospel.

There is no church apart from Jesus - Do you trust and know Him?