

Sermon Notes

Providence Community Church

11-23-14 Ken Carlton

Title: ELEMENTAL ECCLESIA

Main Text: Mat 16:13-28

Sermon Description: All of the surprising events recorded in Matthew's gospel have led up to setting the stage for this pivotal moment in Christ's ministry. Perhaps most surprising, and no doubt initially disheartening, for His followers would have been the widespread rejection of Christ nearly everywhere He travelled (His hometown, whole cities, people groups, the religious establishment, cultural centers). The tone of His preaching has altered accordingly (4:17) "...Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand...". (11:20) denouncing unrepentant cities (12:39) sign of the prophet Jonah, (13:10-11) speaking in parables – a judgment of obscurity on obstinate hearers. All of this raises the question: how indeed would His kingdom be established? In Mat 16 we have an aspect of the answer... He would build His church. 'Ecclesia' is mentioned first here. This is the inauguration of Christ's conquering kingdom institution with generational vision. His kingdom agents would be vetted on the basis of faith and revelation from God himself. This anticipates Discourse #4 theme: The Church.

HEADING: 4 ELEMENTS FOR UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF CHRIST'S CHURCH...

1. CONFESSION – “WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?”

- a. Identity of Christ (16-17)
- b. Work of Christ (21-23)
- c. Fellowship of the sufferings of Christ (24-26)
- d. Ultimacy of the Kingdom of Christ (27-28)

2. ROCK – “I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH” (18)

- a. Setting: quarried stone
- b. Extrinsic verity
- c. Apostolic/ecclesiastic metaphor (Eph 2:19-22)

3. GATES – “SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT”

- a. Historical/cultural significance
- b. Gates fulfilled in scripture (Rev 21, 22:13-15, 11:15-19)

4. KEYS – “WHATEVER YOU BIND ON EARTH”

- a. Access to strongholds (Acts 14:27, 1 Cor 16:9, II Cor 2:12, Col 4:3)
- b. Guarding the church (Jn 10)

Close: This pattern of Christ's involvement with His covenant people is no historic surprise in the course of covenant history. Despite the naysayers, God has been pleased to glorify Himself by advancing the few and weak against marvelous odds for His glory and namesake (Deut 7:1-7)

FAMILY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Theme: Who is Christ	Theme: Work of Christ	Theme: Suffering with Christ	Theme: Kingdom power	Theme: Rock	Theme: Gate/keys
Verses: Mat 16:13-18	Verses: 16:21-23	Verses: 16:24-26	Verses: 16:27-28	Verses: Eph 2:19-22	Verses: Rev 20:12-15