

SERMON QUESTIONS

The Road Ahead

“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it” (Matthew 16:18, NIV).

OPENING PRAYER

Please take time to pray for our church and the transition that we are going through, but also for our pastors, leaders and congregation. Pray that we would be a Christ-Centered Acts 1:8 family!

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8, ESV).

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is it about change that people don't like or are afraid of, and how can we conquer that fear? Isn't change inevitable and something that we need to go through, even healthy?

SERMON/BIBLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

2. Read **Matthew 16:13-18** together and S.O.A.P.
3. Why did Jesus want to know who people thought He was or saying that He was? Then He asked them, “Who do you say I am?” What is the significance of this question for Peter, the disciples and all of us?
4. **Matthew 16:16-17** says, *Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus 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 (NIV).*
What did Jesus mean when He said, that this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven? Has God revealed anything to you lately?
5. Why do you think that Jesus asked two questions in the order He did? Are we influenced by what others think? Discuss together.
6. What is your answer to Jesus' second question (16:15)? Why is it so important? Why is it important not to hide your faith in Christ?
7. *“And I tell you, that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it” Matthew 16:18, NIV).* Notice, Jesus doesn't say that I will build your church, or you will build My church, He says ***I will build My church***. What is Jesus saying, and how should we respond? What does Jesus mean by “on this rock?” Read **1 Corinthians 3:11**.

8. What does He mean that the gates of hell will not overcome it? Are we on the offense or the defense? What should be and needs to be our stance, and how do we partner with God in this battle?
9. Read *Matthew 22:34-40* together. What does it mean to have a vertical relationship with God and a horizontal relationship with others, and why are both of these relationship so important to the advance of God's kingdom and the Great Commission?
10. What is the Great Commission and what is your role? The role of the church? Please Read *Matthew 28:18-20*.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

11. Read Acts 1:8 together and think about what it means to be witnesses for Christ in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth?
12. Where am I in all of this? Who is God calling me to be in the midst of this transition? What might He be calling me to do during this time? In the future? Am I totally in and what does that look like?

CLOSING PRAYER TIME

Take some time to read and reflect on the reflection questions above and pray that God would guide you and lead you by His Holy Spirit, and that you would seek His will and not your own.