

# Keys of the Kingdom

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Date: 25 August 2019

[0:00] Keys of the Kingdom. Matthew 16 from verse 13. It's the time of our annual meeting as a church.

! It's good to reflect on the theme of the church, what we're here for, why we're here, what's the point, what's the point of the church. I'd like to talk about God's vision for the church, God's plan and purpose for his church.

Where do we need to be as a church? And in Matthew 16, we see the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, the head of the church, speak to the church, speak of the church.

Really, one of the first occasions he refers to the church, the assembly, the congregation. And he revealed his kingdom to Peter, to the Apostle Peter.

He revealed his kingdom plan when our Lord told Peter of the church. And he tells us of the keys of the kingdom. We read from Matthew 16, from verse 13.

[1:12] Matthew 16, verse 13. When Jesus came into the coast of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?

And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist, and some Elias and others Jeremiah, so one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

And I say unto thee that thou art Peter, and upon this rock will I build my church. And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

[2:23] Our Lord tells Peter of the church. God's vision for the church. What is it? What does he want it to be? What's his goal, his intent?

What really ought to be the goal of every believer? Who is the church? We corporately are the church. How can we please our great king and master?

How can we honour our great and mighty Lord? There's some keys to unlock here I could put to you as I can draw them here from these words.

How to be that church that glorifies our Lord. How to be that dynamic church. That godly church. Our Lord firstly commends Peter for his confession.

And we are called also to share the word of the king. The word of the king. Peter declares the truth about Christ, his king. In verse 16, And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

[3:39] And the Lord was saying, On this rock, this bedrock of his confession. Some would not understand and say it was Peter the person.

No, it was Peter the confession of Peter. The profession of Peter, not the person of Peter. That was the rock. The profession of faith, the confession of faith by Peter was the rock.

He was saying, On this rock, your confession, will I build my church. On this word. It's the word of truth. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

That's the truth. And we know in John 1, He is the word. The word. Christ himself. And the very word of the king. The word about the king was Peter's confession, wasn't it?

Peter stated his allegiance to the king. His loyalty, his faith. It was the word of the king. That was the foundation stone for the church.

[4:37] And our Lord says, This word, this confession of faith, This word of faith, This faith declared on Christ, in Christ, Is a foundation.

The foundation. Our rock. And may we, like Peter, declare this truth, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. May that be our confession, Our testimony, That declaration of his word, Of the word.

And our faith in Christ, Our standing fast on his truth. Elsewhere we read of the word, Of the foundation, Of the rock, As being Christ's own words.

In Matthew 7, 24, People would know the story of the two builders, One building down on the sandy side, And one building on the rock, The hill.

The hilltop, The rock, The mountain. And our Lord tells of the foundation, Of these two, One flimsy and faulty, One rock solid, Literally.

[5:41] And he tells of how the building, Foundation, That was secure and strong, Was the rock. Matthew 7, 24, And our Lord explains his picture, Story, His parable, Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, And doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, Which built his house upon a rock.

His sayings, His word, This word sayings, Is the word logos. It's the word. It's the logos. These sayings of mine, He says, This word, This logos, He is the logos.

He is the word. Christ, His word, Is the foundation. These sayings of mine, They're a rock, He says, That a wise man will build, His life upon.

This is the foundation, Upon which we can build, Our lives upon. And our Lord related, How his word is a sure foundation, To build a life upon. And by that foundation, We can withstand, The storms of life, The winds that blow.

We can know and love, Our mighty king. And we're called to be messengers of his. Christ is himself, The logos, The word. And friends, Brothers and sisters, It's the church.

[6:57] We're to take the king's message, The logos, The word, The word of God. We're to declare his sayings. We're to be truth tellers. In a world filled with lies, We've got truth, We can depend upon.

And we can tell the truth. This church is built, God helping us, On Bible truth. That is where we stand. We stand on the word, The logos, The Bible truth, The word of the king.

Amen. And we want this to be our hallmark, That we will stand strongly upon it. We will defend it.

We will stand rightly for it.

We'll declare it boldly. We'll hold it fast, And we'll hold it forth, The word of God, That we are a biblical church, Bible based.

A church that adheres to the Bible, And stands strongly for a biblical mindset, A biblical world view. Where that might not be popular, As we know.

[7:54] We will stand fast on what is biblical. A biblical salvation message, Biblical standards, Biblical methods. We will stand, And we will not be moved from this word, This rock.

We have the authority of the book, The inerrancy of it, That this word is inerrant. It's without error. It is perfect, Preserved.

Peter confessed the word. Thou art the Christ, The son of the living God. This word is powerful beyond compare. It's alive, It's quick and powerful, It's active, It's operative, It's energized, It's active, In your life and mine.

The word of God. And it does a deep and abiding work. It's alive. The words jump off of the page at you, Don't they? It's alive, It's living.

There's life in this book, In this word of God. And it does a deep abiding work in the spirit and soul and heart of men. We are built, Brothers and sisters, Upon this rock, This rock.

[9:00] Amen. It's abiding, It's sure that he is the Christ, The son of the living God. And our world desperately needs this truth, Doesn't it? Truth is our bedrock, It's our sure foundation.

In a world filled with falsehoods and lies, And fake news, We've got the truth, The truth, Nothing but the truth. The truth that we adhere to, Has been revealed from God, From heaven.

Our Lord says to Peter, That it's revealed from heaven, Revealed from the Father. This is life changing, Soul transforming truth, Eternal truth, God's salvation plan, The Christ, The son of the living God, The gospel truth, The gospel plan.

And we are to be a spiritual training centre, God helping us. We'd like to be more such, To be more so, A spiritual training centre, We can get together and encourage one another, And sharpen one another, That the church should be training believers, To be going out into the world, To be disciples and disciple makers, And every believer is called to this, To be a communicator of this truth.

And what is the truth? The rock, Christ Jesus. Now we like to sing rock songs in this church, Don't we? Rock songs, Songs like, On Christ the solid rock I stand.

[10:31] Amen? Songs like, He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, Rock of ages, Cleft for me. He brought me out of the miry clay, He set my feet on the rock to stay.

Praise Him, Praise Him, Jesus our blessed Redeemer, For our sins He suffered and bled and died, He our rock, Our hope of eternal salvation. Hail Him, Hail Him, Jesus the crucified, We have an anchor that keeps the soul, Steadfast and sure while the billows roll, Fasten to the rock, That cannot move.

Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love. I'm being a bit lighthearted there, There's a sense where there's a rock here, There's scripture here, There's truth that we found it upon, Not some airy fairy, But solid scriptural doctrinal words from God.

This truth is sure, It's the foundation, And it's a heaven sent word. Verse 17, Matthew 16, The Lord says, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona, Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, But my Father which is in heaven, This word has been revealed from heaven, And we are rock solid, Grounded, Steadfast on this word, Firm, Firmly planted, In a world that's fad driven and fickle, And ever changing, This truth remains, The truth is the truth, It remains, Amen, And we will not be moved, If we have this firm foundation, God helping us, Let's not be detoured from that, You know, That's not to say, And look, I like to keep, Couch things with, God help us to stay this way, Amen, Because there's churches that have said this in the past, And they're not there now, God help us, Sack me if I take you off the wrong track, Please, Remove me, Discipline me, If I teach you in error, Kick me out the door, Because we've got to be steadfast as a church, We want to be rock solid, Amen, And we're called to share the word of God, The word of the king, It's the king's message, His saving message, So firstly, We stand on the word of the king, Be ye reconciled to God, It's the king's message, It's the word of the king, Amen, This is the word of the king, Amen, I had another scripture there, I might have missed a page there somewhere, I was thinking, Where the word of the king is, There is power, Amen, Where the word of the king is, There is power, Praise God, Stand fast on the word of the king, Secondly, We're called to work, The work of the king, The work of the king, Verse 18, It says that our Lord says, He is building his church, He says, Thou art Peter, And upon this rock, I will build my church, And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it,

[13:33] It's God's work to build the church, It's a holy work, A spiritual work, It's a heaven sent work, And the king has a building program, A building work to do, What is it?

Building up people, Building up people, And this great kingdom work is our work too, Isn't it? To build up one another, When you see someone who needs a bit of building up, Do it, You do it, Amen, The angels aren't going to do it, Build one another up, Edify one another, One another, This great kingdom work is our occupation too, When you see a brother, A sister flagging, Stir them up, Bless them, Love them, Amen, Encourage them, And we are laborers together with God, What's his work?

Building his church, And we are co-workers with God, Workers together with one another with him, Workers, laborers, Co-laborers with God, And I'd like to think that what we're meant to be is, Constructive Christians, You see a lot of the other kind, Don't you?

They're not constructive, And let's not be one of the grumblers, Let's be one of the workers, Not a destructive Christian, But a constructive Christian, Building one another up, On your most holy faith, Building up yourselves, And building one another, And so be constructive, Have that mindset, I'm going to be a builder, To contribute, To edify, To build up, To lift up, To encourage, To be about the work of the kingdom, The king, And he is growing his church, God is the builder, And we're co-builders, We are workers under the builder, We're kind of brickies laborers maybe, He sets the pace doesn't he, He lays out the plans, He appoints and places us, To do those little things here and there, Where he needs us to be, And he is the maker, And the sustainer of his church, He's in

charge,

He's in control, He is the head, He is the builder, And it's our privilege, Brothers and sisters, You and me, It's our privilege to be, Laborers on this building site, As it were, Construction workers, I like to what I said earlier about Mary, She had done what she could, Now sometimes I like to think, As I reflected with Julie not long ago, I just do my bit, And we can all do our bit can't we, All of us have got a bit to do, A bit here, A bit there, It all makes it all happen doesn't it, You know if we, If we found, We came, And certain set up wasn't done, Or certain preparation wasn't made, For songs or communion, Or fellowship together, If that bit was missing, It would affect, Our fellowship wouldn't it, All of us have our bit,

[16:49] Our bit to do, And your bit might be, Greeting, Before and after, Encouraging, Offering to pray, Blessing, Noticing, When someone's not here, To make that contact, If you can, And I know, Obviously contact details of people, Is a somewhat sensitive thing, Some people, Say we've got a silent number, Don't give it out, We respect that, But you might say, If someone, Is missing, You might, Maybe contact me, And say, Look I've noticed so and so, Is not here, Can I contact them, And I'll ask them, To share, Their contact details, So you can send a card, So you can make a call, You know some people think, Oh nobody contacted me, I didn't come to church, And nobody contacted me, That can be a problem, Can't it, I know that can be a problem, Look, We can be on the receiving end, Of that and think, Oh nobody missed me, Nobody cares, It's not what we mean to project, Believe me, We do endeavour,

God helping us, In whatever fashion or form, Email, Phone, Text message, Letter, We do try to make those contacts, But I know some people, Can get missed, And please forgive me, If you've ever felt like that, We never want to project that, But everyone can do their bit, We can all play a part, In such a work, Support one another, In this work of building, Now I love the aspects, In the book of Nehemiah, Where we see Nehemiah, Led of God, In that construction project, To build, To rebuild, The broken down walls, Of Jerusalem, The burnt gates, Of Jerusalem, And in Nehemiah 4 verse 6, It pictures there, This building work, This building up, That we're all a part of, And we can all have a part to play, It talks about, This family was next to that family, Was next to that family, They all had a part to play, They all had a, A section of the wall, They all had, A responsibility for a part, And everyone did, Their bit, That made the whole, Amen, And I love it in Nehemiah, Where it says, Nehemiah 4 verse 6, It reads, So built we the wall, And all the wall was joined together, Unto the half thereof, For the people had a mind to work, The people had a mind to work, It's almost like a dirty word these days, Isn't it?

Avoid work wherever possible, But now can we get a mind to work, To have that attitude, To work, A work, A responsibility, Yes, Give me more, Give me more, I want more work to do, We don't often hear that, But some would rather leave it to the others, The others can do it, But we all can join, And be participators, And it's got that sense, That this is our church, He is building his church, But it's our church too, Because we are his, And he is ours, And we care about being here, About being engaged, About getting a burden from the Lord, What's God putting in my heart to do?

And do that with all your might, Get a burden from the Lord, And it's only as every one of us, Man, Woman, And child, Just do his or her bit, And together, We can be, A part of God's building, That he is operating, Through us, In 1 Corinthians 3, 6, Paul says, I have planted, Apollos water, But God gave the increase, We do our bit, Apollos, Paul, God ultimately does, The growing of his church, And we're talking growing spiritual, That's what matters, Isn't it?

[20:21] He will bring the increase, All glory to God, That people will be saved, Sanctified, Walking in righteousness, And truth, And growing in fervency, And zeal, And power, And it's our great privilege, To be servants, His servants, We've seen the word of the king, And the work of the king, We're talking about being servants, Now, Just to reflect again, On a once in a lifetime, Not that we do this all the time, But, At that time that we did visit London, Julie and I had the privilege, To visit London, And we walked around, And saw many of the sites, We walked the streets of London, We just basically, Traipsed around, And visited, All the sites we could see, And one of the sites, Of course, Buckingham

Palace, Palace, The royal palace, And we went to Buckingham Palace, And we peered through those iron gates, And you could only get so close, It was really, A long way to get, Anywhere near Buckingham Palace, And we, Just imagine, What would it be like,

What would it be like, To be able to open the gate, And to march in, And to open the doors, And to walk in, To the very palace, Of the Buckingham Palace, And we imagined, What would it be like, To step inside, To see the sites that were there, And the wonders of it, And the glory, The history, The splendour of it, We thought, Oh, That's not going to happen, And so we walked down, One of the side streets, And we happened to look, And glance, There's a side entrance there, And there was this well-dressed woman, And she beckoned to us, And she had this warm smile, And she beckoned to us, And she gave this friendly invitation, She was one of the servants, Of the Queen, A royal servant, And she welcomed us, She said, Come in, Come and enter into the gates, And she ushered in, She ushered us in, My, We had to pay, But she ushered us in, To the very halls, And the rooms of the palace, And what a wonder that was, Julie and I were really, Quite excited about that, And Julie was saying, I wasn't very well-dressed,

To be going into the palace, Because it had some, Kind of, Rough sort of parka on, And it looked a bit daggy, But, It was the warm welcome was there, As the, As the Queen's servant, Opened the doors, And said, Enter in, Come in, And come into the palace, And there's this, Ushering in, Into the very rooms, Of the palace itself, By the servant of royalty, And there were many others there, And they were so dressed, So smartly, And fitting, Fitting becoming, Of the servants of the king, Of the queen, Wearing the apparel, Of royalty, And you could see, They were so smart, And so, It just had a, This air of, This is something really special, And wonderful, The servants of royalty, The servants of kings and queens, Have opened the doors, That we can have access, And we were treated, As guests of royalty, How can we likewise, Be servants, Of the king, Amen, How can I be a servant, Of the king,

Such that, Wow, What a privilege to serve, To do his work, How can we get that, Mindset, How can I exercise, My gifts and callings, How can I render, My best service unto the king, Unto my royal master, He deserves our very highest, And best, Doesn't he, He gives us life, He makes us truly alive, And we sustain by the very breath, Of the spirit of God, And it's the church, His church, It belongs to, The king of kings, And the lord of lords, And the church was founded by God, By his great plan, And purpose, And we are to share, The word of the king, This is precious, Confess Christ, And confess his word, Share the word of the king, And secondly, Work the work of the king, This great heavenly builder, He's building up people, He's building, Living stones, Into his, Wonderful construction project, Who is you, The church, Work the work of the king, And lastly, Wage the war of the king, Wage the war of the king,

We see not only are we, Servants of the king, Not only are we, Soldiers, We are also, Soldiers of the king, To war the war of the king, In verse 18, He says, Thou art Peter, Upon this rock, This confession, This word, Will I build the church, I will build, There's this project, Of this work, The work to be done, Is the building, And, The gates of hell, Shall not prevail, Against it, The picture here, As someone might think, At times, And we can be inclined, To think, Of this fortress mentality, Oh, We'll have a holy huddle, And we'll shut the doors, And exclude everybody else, And we'll have our little holy club, And have our little, Hallelujah time, And our glory time, And we'll, Kind of retreat, Behind the defences, Of the four walls, And sort of hunker down, Until the Lord comes, But the picture, Is opposite of that here, It's the picture, Of an army on the advance,

[25:26] Of tanks, Rolling down the streets, And pushing down, That obstruction, Those barriers, Are pushing aside, The gates, And breaking down, The gates of the enemy, The gates of hell, Shall not prevail, It says, Friends, We have a mission, A fight to fight, A battle to press, And the church here, Is pictured not on the, Defensive, But on the offensive, That we should be, Out there, Evident, Active, Visible, On the front line, I like the picture of Moses, As he prayerfully trusted, In the Lord, At the time of battle, As Joshua and his forces, Fought for God's people, At the battle, Against the Amalekites, The battle of Rephidim, It's Exodus 17, Exodus 17, The Amalekites, The enemies of God, Were there, Against the people of God, And Moses held up,

The rod of God, He held up this rod, This staff, That symbol, Of God's power, Of God's blessing, Of God's authority, He held up the rod of God, Which represented, That they were, Depending upon God, They were relying, Upon the Lord, To prevail, And bring victory, And Exodus 17, Verse 8, Then came Amalek, And fought with Israel, In Rephidim, And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose out men, And go out, Fight with Amalek, Tomorrow I will stand, On the top of the hill, With the rod of God, In my hand, And Moses would stay, On the mount, And hold up the staff, You know, It was a posture of prayer, It was a posture of prayer, As he held up the staff, As a sign of God's people, Prayerfully, Depending upon the Lord, For his power, For his undertaking, For his victory, The power of God, Was there, The rod of God, And this staff, Was always a reminder, Of God's power, God's victory,

Depended upon God's power, And the staff, Was mentioned, Many times in the Bible, The staff, The shepherd's staff, The shepherd's rod, Was mentioned many times, 250 times, In the Old Testament, Talks about the staff, 250 times, Oh my arms are getting a bit tired, 250 times, In the Old Testament, The staff, Is mentioned, It represented Moses' vocation, As a shepherd, His life, God gave provision, And protection, Our defence, It's interesting to note, This staff, This rod, Not only do we see the staff, With Moses, We see it with Aaron, We see it with Jacob, We see it with Gideon, And with Elisha, And Pharaoh, Had a counterfeit staff, As well, Watch out for them, But we must make sure, It is God we depend upon, Verse 10, Exodus 17, So Joshua did, As Moses had said to him, And fought with Amalek, And Moses, Aaron and Hur, Went up to the top of the hill, And it came to pass,

When Moses held up his hand, That Israel prevailed, When he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed, His uplifted arm, Was a posture of prayer, Verse 12, This is Exodus 17, But Moses' hands were heavy, And they took a stone, And they put it under him, And he sat there on, And Aaron and Hur, Stayed up his hands, The one on the one side, And the other on the other side, And his arms were steady, His hands were steady, Until the going down, Of the sun, It speaks of the support, Of the work of God, Do we realise the warfare, That we're in, This need to help, We need help, Moses could not do it all alone, He relied upon the power of God, And then his hands got heavy, His arms got heavy, Representing the power of God, By the uplifted rod, But he grew weary, And Aaron and Hur, Gave their help, And support, We need that as a church, That we all can do our bit, To play our part, To support the work,

Of the ministry, The work of the church, We need to support one another, And I'm not just talking about me, I'm talking about all of us, There's people that need help, In the kitchen department, In the catering department, In the Sunday school department, In the youth department, We don't have one yet, We need help in the technological department, The library, I'm sure there's ways you can lend a hand, And I was blessed by someone saying, I'd like to help this morning, There's ways we can all lend a hand, Hold up the arms, Help those who are working, Work with them, Learn the ropes, Be an apprentice, Support the work, The mission, The men of God, Aaron and Hur supported Moses' hands, We thank God for you, Who are like Aaron and Hur in this church, There's people that heard about, A need to be a bus driver, And they said, I'm in, They volunteer, You know, The battle we fight is a spiritual one, Our Lord says, War a good warfare, Fight the good fight, We're marching forward, As soldiers of the king, We've got a war for the king,

[30:31] We're fighting, A fighting unit, As marching, As soldiers enlisted in his cause, This great cause, We're called to press the fight, And we are assured victory, Victory, What's more, As soldiers of this great king, We're backed by the authority of heaven, Think of that, Not only, Are we his people, As it talks about, Us being, In his army, As soldiers, We've got the host of heaven, Backing us too, All the great host, The army of heaven, Because he's the captain of the host, Of heaven, And we've got his authority, His power, His enablement, So friends, This morning, Let's be, Encouraged in this, To take a stand for righteousness, Keys of the kingdom, We've all got a role to play, We've got the great king, The king of kings, The king of glory, The king of kings, And the lord of lords, The king, Almighty, All powerful, Omnipotent, And his authority,

His enablement, Is ours, He is greater than all the hordes of hell, All the powers of hell, They cannot withstand, The advancement, Of the church of God, We're not some weak, Kind of disabled, Kind of

unable kind of people, We are very able in God, And you might think, I've got lack of ability, God can make up for that, Whatever your situation, We press forward, Into the battle zone, Leaning on his grace, With the object, His glory, And so that all of our activities, Will be directed to this end, And for all my humble efforts, For all our humble intent, And all the inadequacy, That we're so conscious of, That he will be glorified, He will be glorified, Despite our weakness, And so let me wrap up, By this summary here,

And I prayerfully pray, It's fitting the general gist, Of what our Lord is saying here, That we've got a word, Thou art the Christ, The son of the living God, We've got a message, Our world needs to hear, We've got the truth, About the truth, We've got the word, About the word, Our Lord, The logos, The sayings of mine, On which we can build a life, Share the word, Of the king, Work the work of the king, Let's be like the people, Of Nehemiah's day, They had a mind to work, You didn't have to ask them, They just said, Yes, I'm here, They had a mind to work, They had an attitude to work, They had a heart to serve, To work the work of the king, Our great heavenly builder, And wage the war of the king, Help hold up the rod, Let's help one another, Let's support one another, Let's encourage one another, Let's wage the war, Let's stop having this bunker, Hunkering down mentality, And let's realise, We're an advancing, Invading army, Demolishing gates, And smashing down barriers, To reach the lost, That are held captive, Behind those gates, We are to wage war for the king, The gates of hell, Shall not prevail, Against the church of God, So be encouraged to, Take to heart, These things today, I pray, Bless you, Let's close with prayer, At this stage, Lord, We thank you, For your word, And the work we are called to, For the war that we're waging, Lord, Let us be a people, Set on fire, Let us be a people, As extravagant as Mary, This morning, Lord, That we can be, Activated, In whatever, Ministry capacity, That we can all do, Some something, Our part, And as Mary, Do what we can, Lord, Help us, Be stirred, I pray, Each one, That we will be stirred, Lord, Be glorified, We don't, Want to put anyone, On a, Under a yoke, Or, Under a pressure, Of men, But we want, Your spirit, To press us, Lord, May your spirit, Press us, To be, What you want us to be, To, Help us to grow, In strength, In strength, In zeal, Lord, Help us to see, What needs to be done, And to do it, Lord, Be glorified, We pray, Each one here, Will have victory, In their lives, Lord, Because we know, There's many that, Might be feeling, Overwhelmed, Or, Hurting, At this time, There's hardship, And sadness, And, Situations, Still, Pulling people down, Lord, That we can, Extricate ourselves, From that, You would set us free, From whatever, Holds us back, Lord, Break the chains, That, That, Hold us, Back, Set us free, Lord,

[35:37] And be glorified, In your church, We pray, In Jesus name, Amen.