

Matthew 16:13–19

This is the first time the Bible uses the word church. Greek ekklesia. Called out ones. It was a political term for a group of citizens that would be called out of a city to make decisions as to what would happen in that city. In the Greek city/state the citizens would be called out by the trumpet to the ekklesia. Acts 19:35–41 Lawful assembly.

Jesus was strategic in calling His people this. We are the called out ones. We are suppose to set the tone for the culture we are in. Governmental. This is why He said verse 19. Bound in heaven, bound in earth. Will have been bound. Already.

We are disciplined into the ways of the kingdom then we disciple nations in those ways. Acts 1:8 Power is strength, power, ability, or influence. Spheres of authority. Self, family, friends, work, neighborhood, city, state, region, nation, other nations. As we are faithful in little we are given much. Luke 19:17

What is the essential element of the kingdom? Look at the beginning of verse 18. What is the rock? The previous verses. The church will be built upon revelation of Who Jesus is.

Primary revelation is Who He really is. Then what He is like. How would He rule? Your kingdom come, Your will be done.

There is much that is going on in our culture because we allow it in the church. Examples: Racial prejudice, denominational prejudice. Abortion, churches not birthing ministries and more churches because it is too costly. Are their stars in Hollywood because there are stars in the church or the other way around? Patterns. What we allow in our hearts we allow in our lives, what we allow in our lives becomes the atmosphere of our churches, the atmosphere of our churches influences the culture we engage with.

Notice Jesus' next statement: verse 18. Gates don't move. The church is not meant to stay in a building. All our prayer is worth nothing if we don't put feet to it. Satan fell like lightning because 72 disciples were out there healing the sick, casting out demons, and preaching the kingdom. Change happens in the culture because people are changed. Win the lost. Get out of the church. Don't allow the enemy to get us to isolate. (We need prayer but we need it for a purpose. Jesus doesn't live in a church building, He lives among the poor and broken. Isaiah 58:5–10) "I want to move past the milk, I want the meat, the meat is in the street."

We are given keys to the kingdom. Verse 19 Keys are governmental authority. Isaiah 22:22 The keys are given to worshipers but for a purpose. The key is to heavenly provision and heavenly presence. We loose God through our words and actions. We create an atmosphere for His presence and He comes. The presence is for a purpose. Isaiah 61:1–2

We are God's representatives. We are the brokers of heaven. 1 Corinthians 3:21–23

Verse 18 and 19 summarized is this: "I am going to take the revelation of me that the Father gives to believers by the Spirit and make that revelation the foundation, the rock, that you, a called out people, will stand upon as you rule and reign over the cultures you find yourselves in. Taking that revelation of the ways of the King and His kingdom I will cause you to advance kingdom purposes into all areas of that culture, especially the areas the enemy has tried to lock down. The secrets, strategies, and necessary authority to advance the kingdom will be given you and you bring everything that you have seen in heaven to bear on earth and you will find that it is already done, even as you do it. And everything on earth that you cannot find in heaven you will stop from having it's way on earth because My will will be done on earth as it is in heaven, through you!"

Applications:

Realize you are not working to victory, you are coming from victory.

Stop thinking the battles you face is the enemy attacking you, it should be you attacking the enemy. Gates stationary, church advancing!

Start applying kingdom principles to every area of your life that does not line up, then as you are faithful in little move out to much.

Expect change. God is true.

Ask for revelation knowledge that God will use as a platform to advance kingdom principles.

Bring heaven to earth through devotional prayer, worship, ministry prayer (heal the sick and cast out demons), and preach the kingdom. Make disciples. The kingdom advances one life at a time. You want to see the world change start with yourself, those closest to you, then the next one. One person at a time.

God is delaying His coming until more people come in. 2 Peter 3:9 Go get them!

What is being built? Ekklesia

Who is building it? "I" Jesus

What is it built on? Revelation knowledge of Who Jesus is

What does it accomplish? Demolishes the gates of hell

How does it do it? Keys of the kingdom, authority to start and stop, allow or disallow