

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Church Triumphant

SERMON REFERENCE: Matthew 16:13-19

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2300

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright ©2020 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The Scripture we're going to look at today is really an examination.
 - i) The Lord Jesus had been teaching the disciples for almost three years.
 - ii) Now, the Lord Jesus comes to the conclusion of His ministry with them, and He gives them a final examination.
- b) Matthew 16:13-19
- c) The greatest organization, and the greatest organism, on the Earth is the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- d) We cannot claim to love Jesus and not love what Jesus loves; and Jesus loves the church.
- e) God has a plan for every person:
 - i) That you be saved.
 - ii) That you be an active participant in a local New Testament church.
 - (1) If you are not, then you are not right with God.
- f) In today's message, we will learn several things about the church.

2) THE SAVING CONFESSION OF THE CHURCH (MATTHEW 16:13-16)

- a) In order to be saved, you must believe and confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.
 - i) This is where we put our faith.
 - ii) We must be a true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- b) The Lord Jesus asked Simon Peter a question.
 - i) Matthew 16:13-16
- c) It was a personal conviction about Christ.
 - i) Matthew 16:16
 - (1) Simon Peter confessed that he believed the Lord Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God.
 - ii) How did Peter come to this conclusion?
 - (1) Not by taking a poll and asking others what they thought.
 - (2) Not by figuring it out or by intellectual investigation.
 - (a) Peter had spent almost three years with Jesus.
 - (b) Matthew 16:17
 - (c) We do not understand who God is by bringing our minds and intellect to the Bible.
 - (3) We will never know God except by divine revelation.
 - (a) We need to lay our pride in the dust and ask God to reveal to us who Jesus Christ is, and God will.
 - (b) We can know who Jesus Christ is by humbling ourselves and opening ourselves to the Word of God.
 - (c) Matthew 11:25
- d) It was a personal and public confession of Christ.
 - i) Simon Peter was not ashamed or afraid to confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
 - ii) If we are ashamed to confess Christ, then we are not going to Heaven.

- (1) Romans 10:9-10
 - (2) Matthew 10:32-33
 - iii) Walking a church aisle doesn't save anyone.
 - (1) What it indicates is what saves you; that you are not ashamed of the Lord Jesus.
 - iv) Mark 8:38
 - v) The faith that will not lead to confession will not lead to Heaven.
 - (1) How could we believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and be ashamed of Him?
 - (a) It is impossible if we truly believe that He is the very Son of God.
 - e) It was a personal conversion.
 - i) Matthew 16:18
 - (1) Jesus is the foundation of the church; the bedrock upon which the church is built.
 - (a) Ephesians 2:20
 - (b) 1 Peter 2:6-7
 - ii) Prior to this moment, his name had been Simon.
 - (1) The name Simon means "something unstable."
 - (a) Luke 22:31
 - iii) Now, Jesus gives him another name: Peter.
 - (1) The name Peter means "rock, boulder."
 - (2) Jesus is the foundation rock; but, now, Peter has the same nature as Jesus.
 - (a) Peter has become a partaker of the divine nature.
 - (i) A Christian is not just a nicer person; he is someone who has had a miracle and become a partaker of the divine nature.
 - (ii) 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - 1. As Christians, we experience a change in our nature.
 - 2. A Christian is not a tadpole who finally turns into a frog but a frog turned into a prince by the kiss of grace.
 - a. Has there been a change in your life, or have you just joined a church?
 - f) The New Testament church is built upon this personal conviction about Christ, this public confession of Christ, and this powerful conversion.
 - i) To be qualified for membership in the church, you must believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God; be willing to confess this openly, publicly and unashamedly; and have had a transformation by receiving the Lord Jesus into your heart and life.
- 3) THE SOVEREIGN CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHURCH (MATTHEW 16:18)
 - a) Flesh and blood cannot build a church of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i) It is Jesus' church, and He is the one who builds it.
 - b) The church is not a building.

- i) The church is a group of people whom Jesus Christ has redeemed by His shed blood.
- c) Jesus Christ is the architect of the church, the builder of the church and the foundation of the church.
 - i) Matthew 16:18
 - (1) The church is not built upon Simon Peter but upon Jesus Christ.
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 3:11
 - (2) The Greek word (if we were to Anglicize it) for “Peter” in this passage is “Petros.”
 - (3) The Greek word for “rock” in this passage is “petra.”
 - (a) “Petros” means a rock, like a boulder.
 - (b) “Petra” means a rock like a rock stratum, a ledge or foundation.
 - (4) Peter was a piece of the rock while Jesus is the foundation.
 - (a) The foundation stone upon which the church is built is Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God.
 - (i) Matthew 16:16
 - (5) Simon Peter was a sinner like the rest of us.
 - (a) Jesus had to rebuke Simon Peter.
 - (i) Matthew 16:23
 - d) The Lord Jesus is building His church, and the church will be completed.
 - i) Philippians 1:6
 - (1) What God starts, God will complete.
 - ii) God will present the church to Himself, a glorious church without spot or blemish.
 - (1) We are on the winning side, and we have beneath us the foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

4) THE SPIRITUAL COMPOSITION OF THE CHURCH (MATTHEW 16:18)

 - a) The Lord Jesus builds the church out of living stones.
 - i) Simon Peter knew that he was not the foundation.
 - (1) 1 Peter 2:5
 - b) Matthew 16:18
 - i) The Greek word for church means “a called-out assembly.”
 - ii) The Lord Jesus is calling out people from across the world by the Holy Spirit and by the preaching of His Word.
 - (1) All of these “stones” are built upon the foundation, the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (2) The Lord Jesus is a living stone, and we are living stones if we confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.
 - c) As the master builder, the Lord Jesus is putting stone upon stone, building a spiritual house.
 - i) We are built together.
 - (1) This is the reason we must have the church; together, we are a building.

- (a) There is no such thing as a one-stone building.
 - (2) When we are apart, we are not what we ought to be or could be.
 - (3) We are standing together.
 - ii) We are bonded together.
 - (1) You don't just take stones and stack them up; stones have to be bonded together.
 - (2) The mortar that holds the stones together is love.
 - (a) We are bound together by love.
 - (b) It is the love of Jesus Christ.
 - (c) Every stone is not perfect.
 - (i) Where there's a bulge or bump, the mortar gives.
 - (ii) Where there's a cavity or chip, the mortar fills.
 - iii) We are blessed together.
 - (1) Some say that you can be just as good a Christian outside the church as you can inside the church, but it's just not so.
 - (2) 1 Peter 2:5
 - (a) A spiritual house is a place for the Spirit to live.
 - (3) Matthew 18:20
 - (a) The Lord Jesus is omnipresent, but there is His manifested presence.
 - (b) When God's people come together, God comes to dwell with them and to meet with them.
 - (4) Hebrews 10:25
 - d) You can be a Christian without being a church member; but it would be like a bee without a hive and a sailor without a ship.
 - i) if you're truly saved, you will want to be a member of the church of the Lord Jesus.
 - e) Matthew 16:18
 - i) Some say that it looks like the church is on the losing end; but when Jesus made this statement, His ministry was at its lowest ebb.
 - (1) The crowds had forsaken Him, and Calvary was right around the corner.
 - (a) Yet, Jesus said that He would build His church.
- 5) THE SINGULAR COMMISSION OF THE CHURCH (MATTHEW 16:19)
 - a) The keys of the Kingdom of Heaven are the Gospel truth and salvation through the Lord Jesus.
 - b) The word "key" in this passage in Matthew stands for knowledge.
 - i) In Jesus' day, scribes were teachers of the Word of God, and they would wear a key on their belts to symbolize the truth that they held.
 - (1) Luke 11:52
 - ii) Matthew 13:52
 - (1) The Lord Jesus has given us truth (some keys) that we can use to get people into the Kingdom of Heaven.

- c) Matthew 16:19
 - i) If we have made the confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and we are part of the church of the Lord Jesus, then He is placing in our hands the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.
 - ii) Matthew 18:18
 - iii) The keys were not given just to Peter; we are also keeper of the keys.
 - (1) We are custodians of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - d) The singular commission of the church is to bring souls to the Lord Jesus.
 - i) Our job is not necessarily to fight communism, pornography, gambling, abortion, racism or sexual perversion.
 - (1) The Gospel of Jesus Christ applies to all of these things.
 - (2) You can make a man an anti-communist and an anti-bigot without making him a Christian, but you cannot make him a Christian without making him an anti-these other things.
 - (a) The change is in the heart.
 - (b) If we're not careful, all we will do is make the world a better place to go to Hell from.
 - (c) The devil doesn't care what else we do as long as we're not bringing souls to the Lord Jesus.
 - e) Matthew 16:19 says that whatever we bind and loose on Earth shall be bound and loosed in Heaven.
 - i) According to Greek scholars, the construction of this verse says that whatever you bind on Earth shall have already been bound in Heaven, and whatever you loose on Earth shall have already been loosed in Heaven.
 - (1) This does not mean that Earth's will is going to be done in Heaven, but that Heaven's will is going to be done on Earth when we use the keys of the Kingdom.
 - f) Matthew 28:19-20
 - i) Being a Christian without being a soul winner is like being a bus driver who won't drive a bus; it's a contradiction in terms.
 - (1) We can all tell others of the love of Jesus and that He died for all.
 - ii) If we are not endeavoring to bring souls to Christ, then we're not right with God.
- 6) THE SETTLED CONSUMMATION OF THE CHURCH (MATTHEW 16:18)
- a) In this passage, the word that is translated "hell" is the word "hades."
 - i) This means the abode of the dead.
 - ii) This verse does not mean that Hell is on the offense and the church is on the defense.
 - iii) This passage means that the very domain of the dead cannot hold the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b) Saints have died throughout the centuries, but one day our Lord will come; and the dead in Christ shall rise first, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against the church.

- c) Jesus has called the church out, He has sent the church out, and He's coming to take the church out.

7) CONCLUSION

- a) If you are saved, then you are going to love the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- b) If you love the Lord Jesus, then you will:
 - i) Attend the church.
 - ii) Defend the church.
 - iii) Commend the church.
 - iv) Extend the church.
- c) Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
- d) Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ?
 - i) He's the one who paid for your sin with His blood on the cross.
- e) Are you willing to confess openly and publicly that Jesus is the Christ?
- f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16