



## “On This Rock I Will Build My Church...”

Pastor Paul Taylor/November 29, 2009

**Matthew 16:13-18 ESV**, “Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”<sup>14</sup> And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”<sup>15</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.<sup>18</sup> **And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**”

**Peter:** “Petros” vs.” Petrus.” A (piece of) *rock* (larger than a stone -lithos) as a name, *Petrus*, Peter the apostle.

**Would you have picked Peter to start your Church?** Peter denied that he even knew Jesus three times, abandoned him, and yet Jesus proclaims that “upon this rock I will (not I have) build my church.” (Matthew 26:69-75)

**So did Jesus build his church on the “Rock” Peter or was it something else?**

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**What caused Peter to be transformed?** \_\_\_\_\_

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**I believe we find “The Rock”** when we hit the bottom-the bottom of our strength, our good intentions, dreams, and hopes. The Rock is discovering that Jesus Christ can be your life, your lover, your forgiver, your strength, your righteousness, your everything.

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**Would you have picked any of the men or women of listed in the Bible?**

Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Rahab, Sampson, David, Mary Magdalene, John Mark, Paul/Saul,

**What do all these men have in common?** they are sinners who came face to face with their sin, their failure, and became broken...surrendered. The Apostle Paul discovered it...

- **2 Cor. 12: 9-10**, “But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.<sup>10</sup> For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**It is easy to disqualify yourself** from being a hero of the faith. “I’ve committed adultery, I’m a chronic liar, I cheat, I steal, I gave my wife away to another man out of selfishness, I’ve murdered someone, I’ve been rebellious to my parents, I’m filled with lust, I have uncontrollable feelings of rage and anger, I don’t keep my commitments, I’m filled with fears, I’m timid, I’m a religious legalist and fanatic.” YET-that is what each one of these men or women did.

**God doesn’t want His church built on your giftedness;** He is building his church on HIMSELF so it will look like Him to honor his Father.

**Our transformation brings Him Honor!** God the Father has a long history of taking in people who have been major failures or sinners in life but when they turn to Jesus in their brokenness, he rebuilt/transformed their life where his glory and honor shines.

- **2 Corinthians 4:7**, “But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.”
- **Jesus understands the pressures and failures of sin. *But Jesus is our high priest does more than understand, He has the power to transform us.***

**The decision everyone will face:** Will we fall on “The Rock” or will “The Rock” fall on us?

- **Luke 20:17-18**, “The stone that the **builders rejected has become the cornerstone**”? <sup>18</sup>Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

**Do you feel like a rejected stone?** Good News!! God is building His Church with rejects just like you and me;

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- **1 Peter 2:5**, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.