

The Priority of Church Planting

Text: Matthew 16:13-20

November 2, 2024

Big Idea: Jesus advances His kingdom through His Church, so church planting must be our priority.

Context is key!

Question #1 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

Question #2 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What does the text say about God and about me?

- a) Is God saying or showing something about Himself? If so, what?
- b) Do the words in the text predict, prophesy or picture something about Jesus? If so, what?
- c) Is God saying or showing something about us? If so, what?
- d) How does the text point to my need for Jesus? How?

Question #3

“By God’s design, a church is only truly healthy when it exists for something greater than itself.”

- a) Why is this the case?
- b) Why is this truth so often overlooked in local churches today? What’s the impact?

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Point 1: Exclusive **CONFESSION** (vv. 13-17)

Question: There is only one true Jesus. Who do you say He is?

Question #4

- a) **Rd vv. 13-17:** In your context, what do you find to be the prevailing attitudes towards Jesus, of those who do not have faith in Jesus?
- b) What is Peter’s foundation confession so important?

Question #5

Note: Please use your fruit to root diagrams for the following question.

- a) What does Jesus being the Christ, Son of the Living God mean for your life in the day to day?
- b) What circumstances do you struggle to believe that in?
- c) What fruit comes from you when you walk in unbelief in that moment?
- d) What lies are you believing in that moment?
- e) What worldly treasure are you pursuing in that moment?
- f) What Gospel treasure, truth and fruit do you need to believe and replace that with?

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Point 2: Enduring CONFIDENCE (v. 18)

Question: Hell will resist, but Jesus will prevail. Will you persevere with expectant faith?

Question #6

- a) **Rd. v. 18:** How does this promise give you (individual) and our church (corporate) confidence in Christ?
- b) **Rd. Matthew 28: 18-20:** Why does church planting need to be a part of the DNA of Hope Ottawa?
- c) What are the potential implications on our us as individuals and as a church, for planting churches for all people groups?
- d) Which implication(s) do you find the hardest? Why?
- e) Spend time in prayer for one another over these areas.

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Point 3: Eternal MESSAGE (vv. 19-20)

Question: The Word of God is the unchanging authority of God. Will you declare it?

Question #7

- a) **Rd. v. 19:** What are the keys to the kingdom Jesus speaks of here?
- b) What is the gospel? Think of someone God has put around you and write out what you would say to them.

Prayer Application

Spend time as a group or in accountability praying out of **Matthew 16:13-20...**

- a) ADORATION: Jesus, I praise you because you are...
- b) CONFESSION: Jesus, I confess I am tempted to not trust you with/in...
- c) THANKSGIVING: Jesus, I thank you for...
- d) SUPPLICATION: Jesus, I ask you to build Your Church through...

Memory Verse:

"...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

-Matthew 16:18b