

Gospel of Matthew “Rocks, Gates and Keys 2”
Matthew 16:13-20
August 20, 2023

Matthew 16:16-20

16 Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 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. 18 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. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” 20 Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Two major positions

History, the passage, and Peter.

A particular Peter.

“Gates of hell.”

Revelation 1:17-18

When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, 18 and the living One; and I [n]was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

Matthew 16:19

19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Loose and permit.

Bind and forbid.

Matt 23:13

“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in.

Matt 16:19. (NASV)

19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”

Heaven is working itself out into our lives.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- 1.) What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) What stands out to you in this section of Matthew 16?
- 3.) How do you see Jesus' authority and supremacy being expressed in the passage?
- 4.) What are the implication that even the gates of Hades/Hell will not stand or prevail?
- 5.) What privilege and responsibility is Jesus offering through giving the "keys to the kingdom?"
- 6.) What could be potential problems if we read Matt 16:16-20 more about Peter than about Jesus?
- 7.) Do you believe that your life is bringing the kingdom on earth as it is in heaven?
What would help you believe this more?
- 8.) Share something you are reflecting on with your Grow Group and ask them to help you apply it this week?