

Missing the Point

A hospital for the sick becoming a resort for the healthy

What are other ways or times that groups or organizations might drift from their core purpose?

How might this happen in a church?

How might this happen in our church?

What can we do to prevent it?



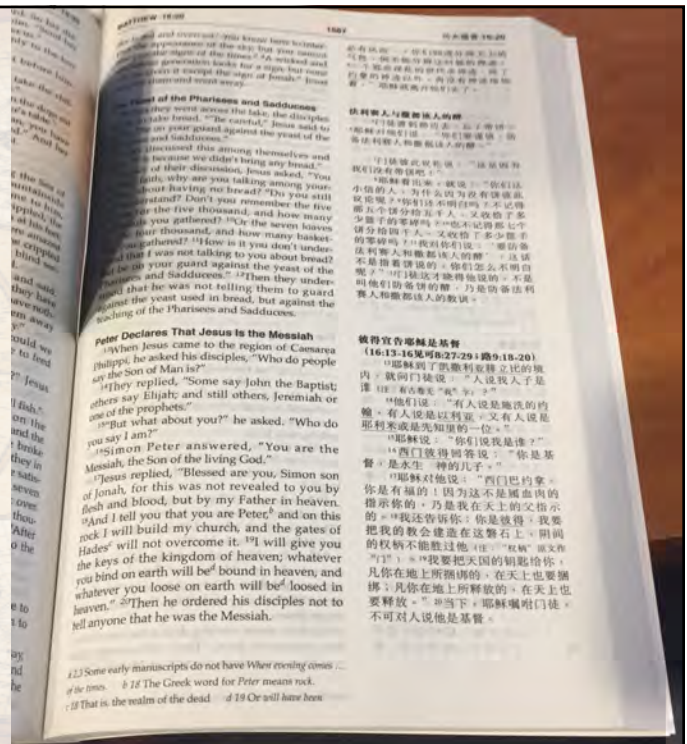
Whose Church is it Anyway?

Matthew 16:13-23

Brown/English: Page 983

White/Spanish: Page 1239

Red/Chinese: Page 1587



Matthew

- Matthew's purpose
 - Show that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah who brought the kingdom of God to earth: peace
 - For Jews and for non-Jews (Gentiles)
- Two main sections of the book
 - Jesus' public ministry as the Messiah, the Son of God: teaching and service (1:1-16:20) **16:13-23:**
CLIMAX AND TRANSITION
 - The road to the Cross and Resurrection (16:21-28:20)

Matthew 16

13-14:

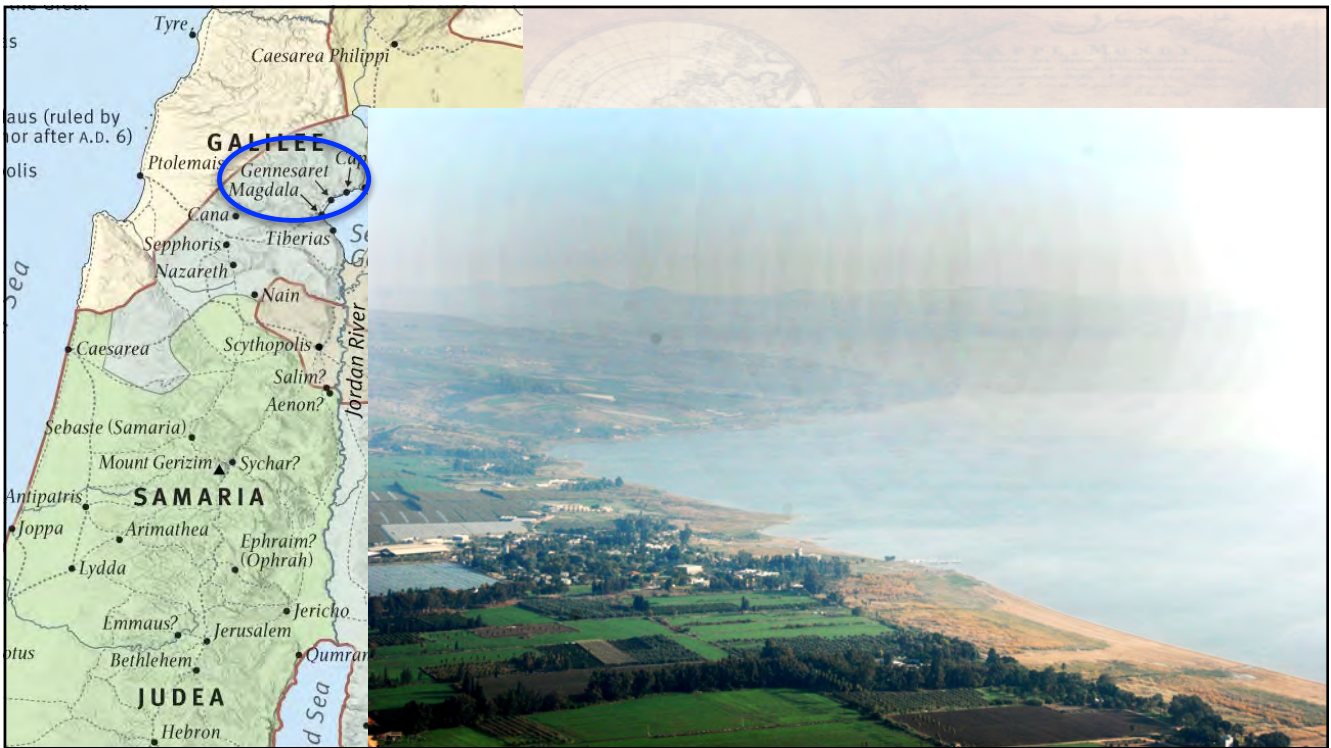
15-16:

17-19:

20:

21:

22-23:





Matthew 16

13-14: Jesus asks about others: Who is the Son of Man?
Broad opinion: A “forerunner” of the Messiah

15-16: • Jesus is preparing for the personal question

17-19:

20:

21:

22-23:

Matthew 16

- 13-14: Jesus asks about others: Who is the Son of Man?
Broad opinion: A “forerunner” of the Messiah
- 15-16: Jesus ask disciples: Who am I?
Peter: the Messiah, the Son of the living God
- 17-19: • **Messiah:** God’s promised one who would rescue
God’s people
- 20: • **Son of God:** emerging understanding of Jesus’
unique relationship with God the Father
- 21:
- 22-23:

Matthew 16

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- 15-16: Jesus ask disciples: Who am I?
Peter: Messiah, Son of God. Revealed by God
- 17-19: Jesus builds His church on Peter by God’s choice
Church can’t be stopped. He gives authority to Peter.
- 20: • Seeing and accepting Jesus as the Messiah,
God the Son, is a gift from God, a great blessing
- 21: • Death can’t stop this church
• Peter declares Jesus’ identity and role
- 22-23: Now Jesus declares Peter’s identity and role

- Peter speaks for the church at Pentecost
 - Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd... *Acts 2:14*

- Peter speaks for the church at Pentecost
- Peter speaks for the church after a prominent miracle
 - While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. When Peter saw this, he said to them... *Acts 3:11-12*

- Peter speaks for the church at Pentecost
- Peter speaks for the church after a prominent miracle
- Peter defends himself and John when arrested
 - “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to the rulers...” *Acts 4:8*

- Peter speaks for the church at Pentecost
- Peter speaks for the church after a prominent miracle
- Peter defends himself and John when arrested
- Peter enforces truthfulness in the church
 - Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit?”
... When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died.
 - About three hours later his wife came in, Peter said to her, “How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.” At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. *Acts 5:3,5-6*

- Peter speaks for the church at Pentecost
- Peter speaks for the church after a prominent miracle
- Peter defends himself and John when arrested
- Peter enforces truthfulness in the church
- Peter opened the door for Gentiles to join the church
 - So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”
 - Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: ... When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.” *Acts 11:1-4, 18*

Matthew 16

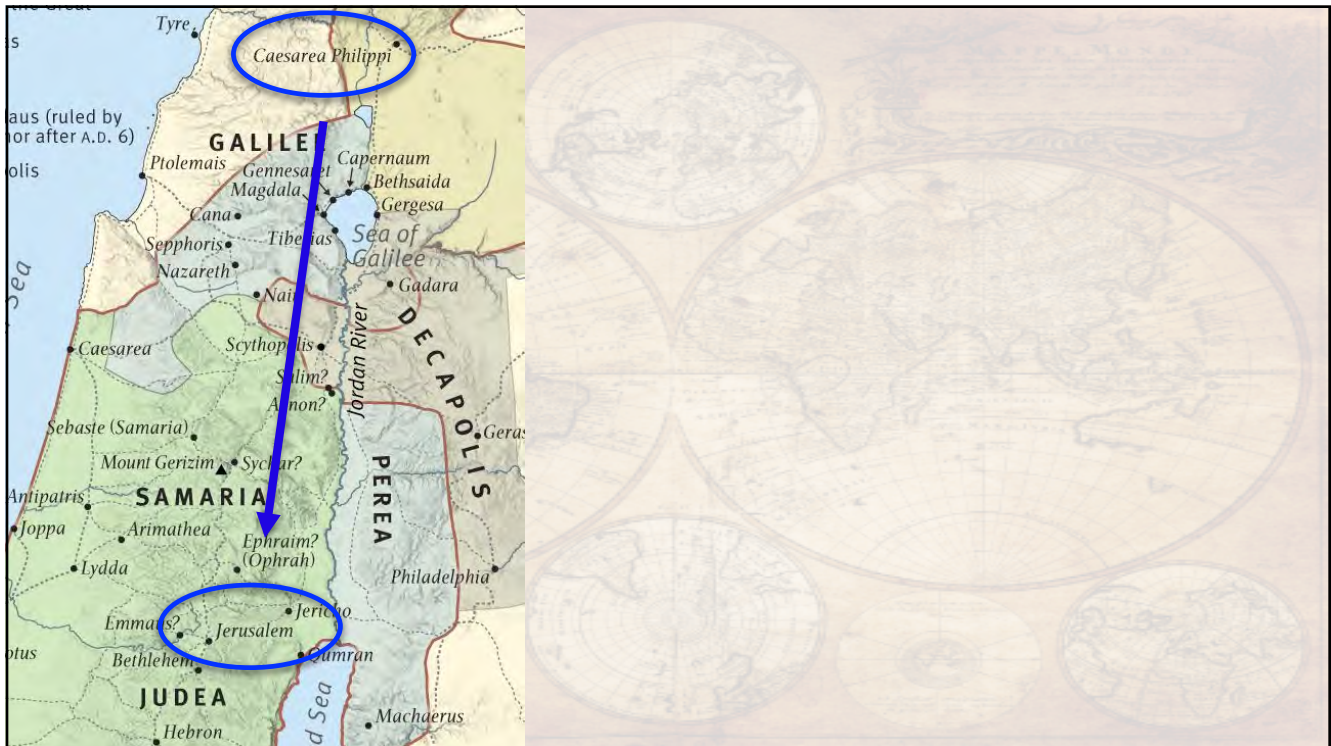
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God the Son, is a gift from God, a great blessing
- 21: • Peter declares Jesus’ identity and role
Now Jesus declares Peter’s identity and role
- 22-23: • Not “apostolic succession” or “papal infallibility”
Rather: final authority of Scripture

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- 20: Jesus commands secrecy (until the right time)
- All disciples shared Peter’s knowledge
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- 21: New teaching: suffering and death at the hands
of the leadership of the Old Covenant “assembly”
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- 21: New teaching: suffering and death at the hands of the Old Covenant leadership “assembly”
- 22-23: Peter rebukes Jesus! Then Jesus rebukes Peter.
A “stumbling stone”. Problem: human perspective

The Big Idea

Jesus Christ is God the Son
and God's appointed Savior for us

and the final authority **OWNER, ARCHITECT, BUILDER,
DEFENDER, AND DIRECTOR**
over His Church **THE FAMILY OF GOD'S PEOPLE
LIVING OUT GOD'S PURPOSES**

Missing the Point

- How might a church drift from its core purpose?
- How might our church drift from its core purpose?
- By thinking humanly (by “flesh and blood”) rather than by God's revelation about Christ's church

Implications

- Think about Christ's church from God's perspective
 - The problem: thinking humanly about Christ's church
 - Examples:
 - The quality of the leaders determines the future of the church
 - Non-leaders do not matter very much
 - Growth/health come from right techniques, plans, intentions
 - The church should reflect **our** values and purposes

Implications

- Think about Christ's church from God's perspective
 - The problem: thinking humanly about Christ's church
 - Rather: think by God's revelation: Jesus is the owner, architect, builder, defender, and director
 - So view the Church from His perspective...
 - Boldness, confidence, joy in the Church and its future: not even death cannot stop it!
 - Humility and peace when looking across churches: the Church is Christ's, and each church answers to Him
 - Recognition of the place God gives each of us in His church: Christ uses people when and how He chooses

Implications

- Think about Christ's church from God's perspective
- Submit to leaders and authorities in God (church leaders, parents, ministry leaders, Life Group leaders, ...)
 - Expect God to use different people in different ways
 - Humility and perspective
 - “So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.” *1 Corinthians 3:7*
 - “So then, no more boasting about human leaders!”

1 Corinthians 3:21

Implications

- Think about Christ's church from God's perspective
- Submit to leaders and authorities in God (church leaders, parents, ministry leaders, Life Group leaders, ...)
 - Expect God to use different people in different ways
 - Humility and perspective
 - Pray
 - “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” *1 Timothy 2:1-2*

Implications

- Think about Christ's church from God's perspective
- Submit to leaders and authorities in God (church leaders, parents, ministry leaders, Life Group leaders, ...)
- Expect God to use different people in different ways
- Humility and perspective
- Pray
- Submit, make their work a joy
 - “Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.” *Hebrews 13:17*

Implications

- Think about Christ's church from God's perspective
- Submit to leaders and authorities in God (church leaders, parents, ministry leaders, Life Group leaders, ...)
- Leaders will answer to God, and to people in God
 - “...they keep watch over you as **those who must give an account.**” *Hebrews 13:17*
 - Jesus rebuked Peter; Paul rebuked Peter: accountability
 - Our denomination: final human authority in the local church is the Membership of the local church

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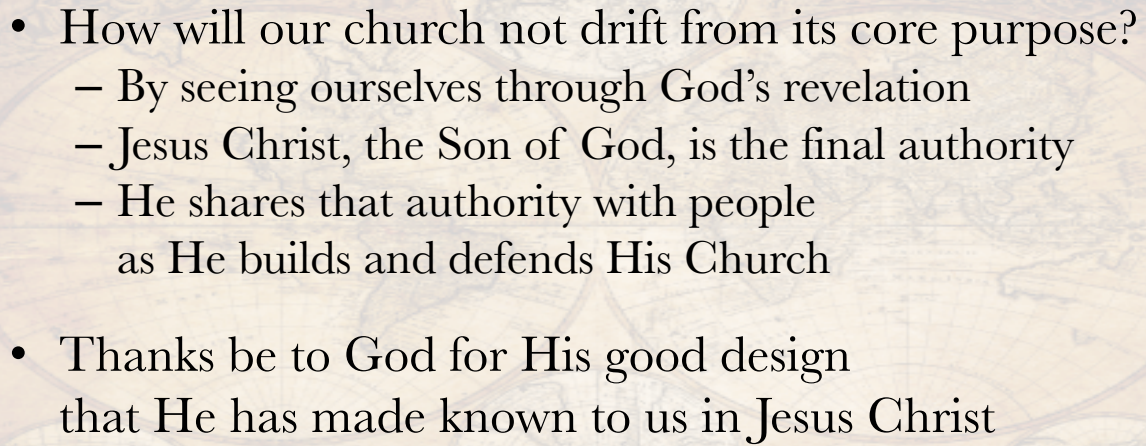
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over His Church

**THE FAMILY OF GOD'S PEOPLE
LIVING OUT GOD'S PURPOSES**

- 
- How will our church not drift from its core purpose?
 - By seeing ourselves through God's revelation
 - Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the final authority
 - He shares that authority with people as He builds and defends His Church
 - Thanks be to God for His good design that He has made known to us in Jesus Christ