



RESOURCES FOR GROUPS

TITLE: Jesus Expands His Mission

DATE: May16, 2021

PASSAGE: Matthew 16:13-27

SPEAKER: Pastor Brian Berg

COMMUNITY BUILDING:

- Update everyone on how the spring projects are coming along in your household.

CHRIST-CENTERED DISCUSSION:

Bold indicates zoom friendly OR to be used with spiritual growth partners. *Italicized green text is the leader guide.*

- What did you learn about grace in this last week as you observed your behavior and intentionally pursued others with grace?
Keep checking in on specific action points that your group members commit to each week. Cheer on anything positive while you give praise to the Spirit working in your heart to do these things. Encourage them to keep relying on God's Spirit in the areas they aren't seeing or feeling progress.
- If you were to ask the people in your neighborhood who Jesus is, what do you think the answers would include? What difference does it make what people think about who Jesus is?
- Read Matthew 16:13-27 together. When Peter answered Jesus "You are the Christ", what did he mean?
Christ comes from the Greek meaning "anointed one" and the Hebrew word "Messiah" which means "one who is anointed." Isaiah 61 talks about what the "Anointed One" will accomplish.
- It has been pointed out that the picture in Matthew 16:18 of the "gates of hell" indicates an offensive posture for the church, not a defensive one. Discuss whether you think the church has an offensive or defensive posture. What are the implications of that?
- **Read in a study Bible or some other resource the notes on this passage. Then answer the following questions in your own words:**
 - **What is the insight (v.17), power (v.18), authority (v.19) given to Peter?**
 - **What are the keys of the Kingdom?**
 - **What do they bind and loose?**
 - **What motivates you from these verses?**
- Pastor Brian talked about the "scope" and "cost" of His Mission. How does the church fit into His Mission?
- **How do/should local churches make faithful followers of Jesus? Describe how your life has been impacted by the church(es) you have been a part of.**
Pastor Brian talked about the role of community and gathering together to make faithful followers of Jesus. As group members share about their growth, a good way to organize the ideas would be to group them by Woodlands priorities (Grounded in the Word & Prayer, Gathering, Going, Giving, Grace-Filled and Growing).

FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING:

- Keep visiting the resource page on our website to find ideas on how to Faithfully Follow Jesus this week. OR, use that list to generate ideas within your group that more closely match the mission of your crew.
[This](#) is the link to the Resource page. Spur each other on to love and good deeds.
(Here's the url: <https://woodlandschurch.org/resources/>)