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Message Notes

September 28, 2025



I Love My Church

I Love My Church's Past

Matthew 16:13-21

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 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. ²¹ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

His Love for the Church:

Our Love for the Church:

Small Group Discussion Guide

Getting Started

Share about a building or place from your past that holds special meaning for you (a home, school, etc.). Why does it matter to you?

Digging Deeper

1. Jesus' Love for the Church

- Read Matthew 16:13–21. What does this passage reveal about Jesus' commitment to His church?
- How does Jesus' suffering and death demonstrate His love for the church?
- Why is it significant that Jesus says, "I will build my church"—and not anything else (nations, businesses, etc.)?

2. The Foundation of the Church

- Why is it important that Jesus—not Peter, not pastors, not traditions—is the foundation of the church?
- How does 1 Peter 2:4–6 describe us as "living stones"? What does this say about our identity and purpose?

3. Our Love for the Church

- What does it mean in practice to say, "I love my church"?
- Why is loving a specific local church (not just "the church in general") so important?
- Can you share an example of a time when you felt particularly built up by others in the church—or when you built someone else up?

4. Buildings and Stewardship

- While the church is people, not a building, why do buildings still matter?
- How do you see God's faithfulness in the history of this church (or your own home church)?
- How can physical renovations and spiritual building go hand in hand?

Making It Real

- ♦ **Personal:** This week, intentionally encourage one person in our church family—build them up in love with words, prayer, or service.
- ♦ **Community:** Consider how you can invest in and steward the physical space of our church (through prayer, giving, serving, or volunteering).
- ♦ **Spiritual:** Reflect daily on this truth: "Jesus loves His church—and He loves me enough to build me into it." Pray that God would deepen your love for your church.