

Introduction

- During His earthly ministry, Jesus faced various forms of opposition: (1) _____ (2) _____ (Matt. 12:22-26)
- Living as disciples of Jesus means that we will face the same kinds of opposition . (Matt. 10:24-25)

Key Point: As followers of Jesus, we must not fear because He has granted to us His _____ in order that we might continue faithfully as His witnesses and carry out the task of disciple-making with which we have been entrusted (Matt. 28:18-20)

The Authority to Bind & Loose

Matthew 16:13-19 — *The Authority of Jesus that Builds the Church*

The Context

- Having been asked for a sign of confirmation, Jesus rebuked the Jewish religious authorities (Sadducees & Pharisees) and warned the disciples about their teaching which prevented them from recognizing that He was Messiah (Matt. 16:1-12)
- Jesus then brought the disciples to Caesarea Philippi, a center of pagan shrines and idolatrous worship. (Matt. 28:18-20).

Observations from the Text

1. Jesus asked two *questions* of the disciples in light of their previous encounter as well as their present location.

(1) *Who do people say that the Son of Man is?*

(2) *Who do you say that I am?*

2. Peter answered that Jesus was the One *anticipated* by Old Testament Scriptures .

Matt. 16:16b—...“*You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.*” → _____

3. Jesus then established Peter’s *leadership role* in the church that He intended to build.

“*on this rock*” →

4. Jesus uses significant imagery to convey the delegated authority that He intends to use in building the church.

Matt. 16:19a—“*I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven...*”

⇒ Keys signify the authority to ‘open’ a door and grant access to a _____ or _____.

⇒ The imagery therefore conveys that Peter is a _____ of God’s household.

Matt. 16:19b—“...and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

⇒ This imagery has history in Judaism and is related to determining that which is to be either _____ or _____. It can also refer to things which are true and are to be accepted or are false and are therefore to be rejected.

Implications of the Text

1. The church will be built by *Jesus* and therefore the authority of Peter and the Apostles is _____ from Him.

2. This authority is based solely on the _____ truth of God’s _____.

3. This authority is exercised through: (1) The proclamation of _____.

(2) Establishing and teaching biblical _____.

4. The exercise of this authority in the church has power in both the _____ and _____ realms.

Matthew 18:15-18 — *The Authority of Jesus that Guards the Church*

The Context

- In order to correct the disciples' prideful thoughts about which of them was the greatest, Jesus tells them that the one who is truly great will be characterized by humility (Matt. 18:1-6).
- He then warns them of the dangers of sin (Matt. 18:7-9) and uses the imagery of a man seeking a lost sheep in order to emphasize the love that God has for those who are led astray in sin (Matt. 18:10-14).

Observations from the Text

1. Jesus' words convey a *process* for addressing sin within the believing community.

The Goal: _____ (_____)

The Process: (1) Go _____ to the other person and address their sin (18:15).

(2) If they do not listen, take two or three other _____ and address their sin (18:16).

(3) If they do not listen, bring the matter up before the _____ (18:17a).

* Address the issue with the _____.

* If it is deemed _____ enough, the church should be informed.

(4) If they do not listen to the church, they must be _____ from fellowship (18:17b).

2. This process must be undergirded at every step by *prayer*.

⇒ This reminds those involved in the process that all this must be done under _____ authority.

Implications of the Text

1. There will be instances of _____ within the life of the believing community.

2. Jesus has delegated His authority to exercise discipline within that community in order to guard its _____.

⇒ This authority must be exercised in accordance with the Word and must be led by the _____.

John 20:22-23—²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

⇒ This is done for the ultimate _____ of all involved.

Principles for Courageous Discipleship

Matt. 28:18-20—¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- As disciples of Jesus, we must live and minister with _____ because Jesus possesses authority in heaven and on earth.
- We must _____ that Jesus' authority to build the church (to make disciples) is properly exercised through the preaching of the Gospel and the teaching of sound doctrine.
- We must be _____ enough to understand the import role of discipline, within our own lives as individuals as well as within the believing community, in order that we might live as effective witnesses to Christ.