

Three Handles on 2021
#3 – He Will Build His Church
Matt.16:13-20

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 A third/final New Year's take on something solid to stand on
- 0.2 'Building a church' might imply much – but what did Jesus mean by it?

1.0 The Place: Caesarea Philippi

- 1.1 Greco-Roman town north of Lake Galilee, home of fortified Herodian family castle
- 1.2 Rock face w/ deep cave bubbling aquifers, feeding Jordan River from "Gate of hell"
- 1.3 Cluster of worship interests: temple to Roman Caesar, second temple to Zeus, niches & goat pen dedicated to goat-god Pan
- 1.4 Background chatter of popular Jewish opinion (vv.13-14)

2.0 The Pun: On the Rocks

- 2.1 Need for clear, truthful, heartfelt, God-given perception of Jesus (vv.16-17)
- 2.2 Punning (v.18) – using Rock (Petros), this rock, and solid foundation
- 2.3 Resistant to power of evil (vv.18c-19)
- 2.4 Not yet ready to go public (v.20)

3.0 The Purpose: 'Build Church'

- 3.1 Reconciling enemies to their Creator (Col.1:20 – "all things to himself")
- 3.2 Uniting people of like heart & mind (Matt18:19-20)
- 3.3 Giving gifts that enhance their life & service to others (I Cor.12:11, etc.)
- 3.4 Building & shaping individuals (Col.1:9-11 – filled, fruitful, increase, strength)
- 3.5 Honoring God with Christ at the forefront (I Cor.15:27-28)

4.0 What This Means for Us in 2021

- 4.1 Our God *is* doing *all* these things right now & will be throughout the year
- 4.2 Jesus is loving & redeeming people *and* communities (relationships) – *look for it*

Next week (Jan.24) – New Series on The Epistle of James

Matthew 16:13-20 (NASB)

Peter's Confession of Christ

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ And they said, "Some *say* John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and *still* others, Jeremiah, or one of the *other* prophets." ¹⁵ He *said to them, "But who do you yourselves say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. 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." ²⁰ Then He gave the disciples strict orders that they were to tell no one that He was the Christ.