



**I WILL BUILD
MY CHURCH**

-JESUS

Week 1 – A Church Healed
January 23, 2022

01. INTRODUCTION

Hello Church, My name is _____ and I am one of the pastors here. Whether you are joining us in person, online or later via streaming, I am excited that you are here. We are kicking off a new series called **"I Will Build My Church-JESUS: Unlocking The Power of A Spiritual Family"**. This series is all about God's plan for a broken world – And how you were created to belong to God and then to His family, The Local Church.

02. TRANSITION TO MESSAGE

As we kick off our new series, "I Will Build My Church" – I want you to pause and ask you this question... **Does it seem to you that the world is getting better or worse?** It seems that this darkness closely correlates with a moving away from Church and the Judeo/Christian traditions, morals and norms as a whole...

Gallup's data finds that church membership is strongly correlated with age: 66 percent of American adults born before 1946 belong to a church, compared with 58 percent of baby boomers, 50 percent of Generation X and 36 percent of millennials.

From Washington post: Many Christians still attend church but do not consider membership to be important, especially those who attend nondenominational churches. But no matter how researchers

measure people's faith — such as attendance, giving, self-identification — Americans' attachment to institutional religion is on the decline.

Context: Jesus in a much darker culture, more issues than you could imagine, takes his disciples on a trip, out of the way, to a place that was the center of the darkness, Caesarea Philippi. Along the way He asked His 12 disciples, **what are people saying about me?** The answers were similar to what people would say today... You are a good guy, you are my homeboy.. etc. Then He turns to them and asks the question directly and this is the center of our conversation during this series.... **WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?** Peter speaks up, you are the Messiah... this is Jesus' response, and our key passage for our series:

Matthew 16:18-19 NLT

"Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven."

Two things to note here: First, the rock is the revelation of Jesus as the Messiah. Not good teacher, prophet, rabbi, But GOD - Emmanuel. This changes everything about how you approach Jesus and The Church.

Second, the person of Peter. Jesus had looked at Peter (in Peter's pre-perfected condition) and declared (Matt 16:18) about him.

- **Peter:** *An everyday working person. Not philosopher or theologian.*

Jesus looked at THAT Peter, and said, *"Yes! Upon THAT person, I will build my Church~!?"*

QUESTION WE ARE ANSWERING IN THIS SERIES: How can we embrace Christ's plan for His family, the local church?

- **CITY ON A HILL** – a city is a collection of families not one person
- **SALT** – A healthy local church preserves and enriches

- **SHINING LIGHT** – Our light shines brightest together.

Transition: Some of my greatest, most joy-filled moments in life have been in the local church, but also some of my hardest, deepest pains and hurts have been in the local church. **That's where I want us to start our series, where it has hurt:**

03. MESSAGE

But here's the challenge with someone saying they got "hurt by the Church." A church can't hurt you, unless you bump your head on the way in or slip and fall in the bathroom. People are the ones who can hurt you. And since the church is full of people, hurt is often unavoidable.

Which brings us to: **TWO REALITIES ABOUT HURT IN THE CHURCH**

1. Usually, it is unintentional. Someone said something that stung you...a Decision was made that hurt you...a misunderstanding occurred that bothered you...a leadership role never came to fruition and that frustrated you...on and on it can go.

None of this good, right, or fun. But it is reality, because why? Yes, we are all a bunch of imperfect people interacting together. Hurts of any kind, are mostly gray not black and white.

2. Sometimes, it is intentional. Hurt people hurt people. Sometimes they mean to because they are broken...

Gossip gets to you. A staff member fails you, A pastor offends you, a leader fails in some big way... Money is mishandled, church politics are made monumental.

Romans 16:17-18

And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people's faith by

teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them. ¹⁸ Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests. By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people.

Bad experiences in Church can be very serious because they can damage your ability to connect with God and other believers. Whether it happened intentionally or unintentionally, it still hurts.

Anywhere there are people there will always be problems. I totally get why people never go back to church when they get hurt. *The closer you are in relationships the greater the possibility for pain.*

But Bad experiences in Church are not anything new. We find them all throughout the first Century Church.

1 Corinthians 3:3-4 NLT

"You still live as men who are not Christians. When you are jealous and fight with each other, you are still living in sin and acting like sinful men in the world. The Church was dealing with jealousy and fighting with each other.

1 Corinthians 5:1-2 NLT

"Someone has told me about a sex sin among you. It is so bad that even the people who do not know God would not do it. I have been told that one of the men is living with his father's wife as if she were his wife. ² Instead of being sorry, you are proud of yourselves. The man who is living like that should be sent away from you.

The Church was dealing with rampant sexual sin in the church. The Apostle Paul didn't just address hurt, he dealt with hurt himself.

2 Timothy 4:10,14-16 NLT

"Demas left me. He loved the things of this world and has gone to the city of Thessalonica. 14 Alexander, the man who makes things out of copper, has worked hard against me. The Lord will give him the pay that is coming to him. 15 Watch him! He fought against every word we preached. 16 At

my first trial no one helped me. Everyone left me. I hope this will not be held against them."

So as we close, hurt is inevitable in any relationship, especially those closest, so the questions isn't if they happen but...

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN HURT IN CHURCH HAPPENS?

I think we tweak the term 'hurt' and say 'bad experience' - simply because not everything we dislike in church is a 'hurt'. Some things are just not our preferences, some are just a distaste, some were an accident, etc

- 1. ACKNOWLEDGE IT.** Don't pretend like you are not hurt. Don't act tough on the outside when you are hurt on the inside.

But always remember, the tendency of your own sinful nature, your flesh: **Sin helps you see the best in yourself and the worst in others... reverse that.** Relationships are rarely black and white and when we accept what happened and change what we can change, that's called growth and maturity.

- 2. BE CONFIDENT THAT GOD WILL DEAL WITH THEM.** What is the gut reaction when someone hurts you? You want to hurt them! ***Repaying evil for evil doesn't overcome evil, it continues it.*** When you are hurting, don't try to get even. Don't retaliate. Let God fight for you.

Romans 12:19-21 NIV *"Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary...Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."*

- Lot of people don't leave room. They fill the space.
- The world says, HURT THEM! God says, HELP THEM.
- Humility is key here because the LORD deals with us too.

- 3. DON'T CONFUSE GOD'S PEOPLE WITH GOD.** When people get hurt by God's people they can start believing that God is just like his people.

TRAP: You begin to see God through the church hurt filter. People will hurt you, but God will never hurt you.

2 Timothy 4:17-18 NLT

"But the Lord was with me. He gave me power to preach the Good News so all the people who do not know God might hear. I was taken from the mouth of the lion. 18 The Lord will look after me and will keep me from every sinful plan they have. He will bring me safe into His holy nation of heaven. May He have all the shining-greatness forever. Let it be so.

Don't allow hurt to stop you from trusting a great God.

4. DON'T GIVE UP ON ALL PEOPLE BECAUSE OF SOME PEOPLE.

(EXAMPLE) Ever been to restaurant. You're in waiting area. another family gets seated before you but they came in after you. Waiter was rude. Inattentive to your needs. Food is not cooked right. I don't say, "I'm done with restaurants. I'm never eating again." I may not go back to that restaurant, but i don't give up on all. ***Don't judge all Christians by the action of some Christians. All churches, by some churches.***

Paul knew despite people hurting him, he knew he still needed people.

2 Timothy 4:9 NLT

"Come to me here as soon as you can. 11 Luke is the only one with me here. Bring Mark when you come. He is a help to me in this work."

It's people who bring hurt, but it's also people who bring healing and help.

04. CLOSING & PRAYER

5. DON'T FORFEIT YOUR PURPOSE BECAUSE OF YOUR HURT.

Wounds vs Scars. You can touch a scar but not a wound.

2 Timothy 4:17 NLT

"But the Lord was with me. He gave me power to preach the Good News so all the people who do not know God might hear."

Colossians 3:13 NLT

"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."

No one has been more hurt by the church than Jesus and He still loves her, blesses her, honors her, forgives her and believes in her.

Either God is bigger than your hurt or your hurt is bigger than God. That's called an idol. If Jesus can get up out of the grave we can get up from hurts, pain, mistakes.

Lets Pray.