

## **“The Keys of the Kingdom”** *“Thy Kingdom Come” Series - Part VIII*

Read Matthew 16:13-20.

In the natural realm, keys give us access to areas that have not previously been accessible. In God's Kingdom, they have the same affect. Keys, once given by God, can unlock spiritual dominions where the Lord allows us access. Since Jesus gave Peter the Keys of the Kingdom, the Lord did more than give him the keys to say, a car, or a house. Can you imagine having the Creator of all things give you the Keys of His Kingdom? Let's imagine for a moment what you think that means?

Let's look at what the Keys opened for Peter:

- The keys given to Peter would accentuate the fact that he would be a steward of the household of God, opening the door for men to enter into the Kingdom. That to bind something was to declare it forbidden; to loose was to declare it allowed. Peter would have to make decisions about the Church's life and practice, which would have the most far-reaching consequences. Peter fulfilled that commission as we read the early writings of Acts. He most certainly forbade and allowed many things to occur in the early church.
- The Keys opened the way for salvation to be given to the Jews on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2, and thousands were saved.
- They opened the way to the Gentiles. Some seven (7) years after the day of Pentecost, Peter conveyed the gospel to Cornelius, a Gentile, thus opening the door of the gospel to them (Acts 10).

Remember nothing happens in the natural unless it first occurs in the Spirit realm. Before Peter gave the answer to Jesus about His deity, Peter first had to be given this revelation from God.

- Case in point, in Matthew 16: 17 Jesus conveyed to Peter what he had said could not have been revealed except by God.
- Keys therefore are physical signs in God's Kingdom of something that results first from revelation. So revelation of what the Lord has given us is currency to obtain keys that unlock something God has allowed us access to.

However, Kingdom keys are not just doled out like candy in a candy store. Prior to keys being given, we must surrender our hearts to the Lord and align ourselves to the heart of the Father. The Lord will not give a revelation to a person who cannot be trusted with it. The truth is just because we see something that looks like revelation from God doesn't necessarily make it revelation. Revelation from God is pure and holy and stands alone in its flawlessness. That being said, we should take more seriously revelation given by God because through it we have currency to purchase something glorious and powerful.

In Peter's case, he was ready for God to reveal something to him. Even though Peter was a brash speaking, very aggressive fisherman, time and correction had prepared his heart to receive what God had for him.

- Therefore, Father God gave Peter, through revelation, access to peer into the heavenly realm because Peter could be trusted to see what the Father wanted him to see.
- As a result, Peter didn't only see Jesus as God's Son, he saw the fullness of Jesus and he saw his true heavenly identity.
- Additionally, Peter's illumination was a revelation of Jesus and His Kingdom here on earth. It was a glimpse into the very gospel of Christ that we hold so dear in our hearts.
- Peter, as he was used to doing, blurted out "...You are the Christ the Son of the living God...!" To say this, Peter was saying that Jesus was the firstborn of our heavenly Father, God's beloved Son. Peter was saying that Jesus was one with God.
- As a result, Peter was given Kingdom Keys to articulate the Gospel of Christ to the masses.

I wonder what other keys in God's Kingdom are ready to be purchased by revelation? I wonder what part of the gospel of Christ has been hidden for such a time as this? In order to be recipients of the keys, we are going to have to properly align ourselves with the Lord and His Kingdom and ask Him for the revelation (heavenly currency). We are going to have to allow the Lord to fine tune us so He can call us up into His throne room to show us what He has in store for His Kingdom - just like He did with Peter.

Much of our time is spent trying to solve our problems rather than turning them over to Jesus, the problem solver. How many times and how many innovations of intimacy can be ministered? How many different variations of the Holy Spirit can you hear? In every case we always settle on making a decision to come to that new level of relationship with our Master.

Every time we talk about deliverance or take you through deliverance, its purpose is to remove just one more layer of spiritual deafness and/or one more obstacle that separates us from the Lord. Like Peter, I have peered into the heavenly realm and I see and hear the Lord saying "Prepare My people. Help them to ready themselves for My soon coming." I keep hearing the Lord say that He doesn't want even one to be lost.

I believe the Lord wants a people, a holy people, and a holy army of people ready and willing to go into spiritual warfare against the enemies of our souls.

- If we could just unite like the 120 did on the day of Pentecost
- If only we could lay down divisiveness
- If we could only stop trying to promote our own agendas
- If we could rise up in faith and destroy skepticism (doubt/unbelief)
- You know there are many ways to disagree and shutting down is one of them. Let's stop shutting down and let's start communicating. Perhaps you have something to add that can make a difference. Shutting down will never solve a problem.

- The message we are promoting is not a complicated message. It can provoke you and it most positively will challenge you, but isn't that what the Gospel of Christ is purposed to do?

We are not ministering high and lofty things in this church; we are sharing the basic gospel of truth. Let's look at the Keys our Heavenly Father has given us:

- These keys give us the ability to pursue having a pure heart unto God.
- A heart that will not compromise but is one that passionately, and with a singleness of mind, hungers after the Lord.
- It is a heart of faith, full of vision and prophetic insight.
- The keys the Lord has given us unlock a heart that has the word of God planted deep within its recesses.
- It is a heart of a servant and it is one that prefers its brother to oneself.
- The Kingdom Keys unlock the heart to follow hard after the Holy Spirit and to test all things against what He has to say.
- The Lord has given us a heart to stand as a warrior and to tear down any altar that has set itself above the Kingdom of God.
- It is a heart that enjoys the presence of the Lord and embraces intimacy with Him.
- The Keys given us release us to give of our time, our effort and of our finances.
- It chooses to be delivered of whatever separates us from the Lord.
- Finally the keys open up a heart that is obedient to the Lord.

We must receive the revelation that we are a people hungry for an intimate relationship with the Lord. As we grasp this revelation, God will give us the keys to unlock this reality in our own lives. More importantly, as we do this He will give us an opportunity to unlock a heart of passion for Jesus to the masses.

## Conclusion

The Lord has called us to be a Kingdom church - one that rules with an apostolic and prophetic anointing. He has called us to be separated ones unto Him. As surely as Jesus gave Peter the Keys of the Kingdom, He has given us a Key as well. This key opens our heart to serve the Lord with passion and with a heart filled with love and praise to the King of Kings.

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