

“Don’t Lose Your Keys” - Matthew 16:13-20

INTRODUCTION: Jesus is getting closer to the cross – **16:21**

- He wants them to see how far they’ve come – **16:15**

- They will be used to establish Christ’s “*church*”.

- Like the Disciples, our faith is tested every day.

I. The City – 16:13 – Full of gods, idol worship, temples.

- The Disciples seem to be out-numbered.

- There were many harsh words said about Jesus – **16:14**

II. The Comparison – 16:14

1 John the Baptist – Herod thought he would “*haunt*” him.

2 Elijah – Malachi 4:5 – Already fulfilled by John the Baptist.

2 Jeremiah – Both had a tender heart ... “*Jesus wept.*”

3 One of the Prophets – 400 years without a Prophet.

- There are many theories today about who Jesus is.

III. The Confession – 16:15-16 – Compare **16:14** and **16:16**

- Peter saw the miracles and heard Jesus preach.

IV. The Commendation – 16:17 – Revealed to Peter by God.

- To be saved, the Holy Spirit must reveal Jesus – John 6:44

V. The Conquerors – 16:18 – “*Simon Bar-Jonah*” – **16:17**

- “*Peter*” = ‘*petros*’ ... “*rock*” = ‘*petra*’ – Acts 4:11-12

- The first time the word “*church*” is used – **16:18**

- The “*church*” is an “*organism*”, not an “*organization*”.

- This living “*organism*” will never die, nor be defeated – **16:18**

- “*gates*” are a symbol of POWER – Matthew 7:24-25

- Jesus walked past the “*gates of Hell*” after His resurrection.

- No true Christian will have to pass through the “*gates of Hell*”.

- The “*church*” is built on the solid “*rock*” of Jesus – **16:18**

VI. The Charge – 16:19 – Peter used his “*key*” often.

- The door to Heaven is opened by the “*key*” of the Gospel.

- Heaven is “*locked*” to those who reject the Gospel.

- Jesus gave every Christian a “*key*” – Acts 1:8

VII. The Challenge – What are you doing with your “*key*”?

- You have a responsibility and an opportunity.

CONCLUSION: Jesus is the “*key*” to eternal life – Rev. 1:18

- Jesus is the “*key*” to victory, hope and peace.