



Part #8 The Church

Introduction: Not too long before His death, Jesus made a prediction, which He connected later to a promise. His prediction was that He would build His gathering, assembly or congregation (we know it as church). It was a prediction about a **people**, not a place, and about a **movement** not a monument. After He died and rose again, He connected this prediction to a purpose and a promise. His purpose was our commission to make disciples of all people groups. His promise was his empowerment and that He would be with us in this pursuit, till the end. The Roman empire that seemed so indestructible is gone today, but Christ's assembly – His church powers on through seemingly impossible circumstances. **The church is the hope of the world.**

Questions to Ponder:

1. When the word "church" is mentioned, what is the immediate picture that comes to mind? Does it line up with Jesus' original idea of a gathering of His people?
2. What is your experience of church? In what way did it help you get on board with Christ's purposes of a movement of His people, and discipleship?
3. In what ways have you embraced Christ's commands to make disciples? What have you struggled with in living out this command?
 - a. Time issues
 - b. Don't know what to do
 - c. Don't 'feel' empowered
 - d. Others do it better than me ... some other reason.
4. If you had been one of the disciples, what part of Jesus' 'Great Commission' would have been most important to you?
 - a. He has authority over everything.
 - b. He wants me to spread the good news of Jesus.
 - c. He will always be with me.
 - d. There will come a time when history would come to a close.

Next Step: God is always calling us forward in Him. What is your next best step (becoming a follower, baptism, partnership, ministry, giving, serving, answering His call to full time ministry, some other response...)? Share this with someone.

Reflect

““But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” (Matthew 16:15–18 NIV)