



iVALUE SERIES
“The Impact of the
Gospel and His Church ”
Matthew 16:13-26; 28:18-20
January 26, 2014

The Conversation Vs 13-14

The Confession Vs 15-16

The Commendation Vs 17

The Church Vs 18-20

- ✓ The Foundation the Church
- ✓ The Certainty of the Church
- ✓ The Ownership of the Church
- ✓ The Fellowship of the Church
- ✓ The Invincibility of the Church
- ✓ The Authority of the Church

The Cross Vs 21

The Confrontation Vs 22-23

The Call Vs 24-27

- ✓ Deny Yourself,
- ✓ Take Up Your Cross Daily
- ✓ Follow Me

The Commission 28:18-20

- ✓ Go & Tell Everyone, Everywhere
- ✓ Baptize Them
- ✓ Teach Them
- ✓ Disciple Them

Our Response:

1. Do you understand how much God values your life and desires to have that personal relationship with you? You can ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart and life and save you right now. Remember it is as simple as **ABC!** **A**dmit to God you are a sinner, **A**sk for His forgiveness, **B**elieve Jesus is God's Son, **C**onfess Him as Savior & **C**ommit Your Life to Him as Lord (the Boss).
2. Maybe you have made that decision, but never have made it public. He is calling you to step out and take that next step that He asks us to do. Be baptized.
3. In order for you to grow and be all that the Lord is calling you to be, you need to be plugged in to a church. If you do not have a church home, and God has called you to be a part of **Petal FBC**, then step across the line today and join! We need you and you need us
4. Do we value the Church the way the Jesus Does? The only way to answer this is to look at our Calendars and Checkbooks... What does your look like? Is Christ and His Church a vital part of your life? If not, what needs to change in your and your family's life?
5. Do we understand the incredible Call and Commission that the Lord has put before us as a Christ Follower and as a Church Family? Do we take it seriously? Who have we shared the Gospel with this year? How is our church impacting our community?
6. Where are you Going and Telling? Who are we seeing baptized? Who are you teaching and discipling right now?

iVALUE

“The Impact of the Gospel and His Church”

Matthew 16:13-26; 28:18-20

January 26, 2014 AM Service

We finish this series this morning and let me take just a brief moment to introduce our next series – I Am a Church Member – it will actually flesh out completely what we are talking about this morning...

This series is all about asking what do we value most? How do we know what we need to value in this world? Well, the question to ask is what does God value most? That clearly tells us what we need to value most? So we have to ask ourselves, do we value these things as He does? The first one though I didn't get to share this message is “The Importance of the Glory of God” – God Values Glory above anything else. And we when we glorify Him our lives as made complete and more joy-filled because the more we glorify Him, the more His name is glorified and the closer we are drawn to Him and He gives more of His glory to us – a never ending circle. The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever and that starts right now.

Last week we talked about the Incredible Value of Life that begins at conception and goes all the way to the grave. So let's stop for a brief moment – did you live for the glory of God this week – was it primary in your life – in all you said and did? Next, did you value life this week? Both yours and the lives of others and even the unborn, the old, those with special needs...?

Today we talk about the last one – though there are certainly more things God values, I think these would be at the top. The Lord values the Gospel – the good news, the Message of the Cross and Resurrection of His Son and the sending agent, the telling mouthpiece – the Church, His bride – the most important and influential living breathing organization on planet earth! Do we value the Gospel and the Church like the Lord does?

Let's ask though, how did the Church begin and how do we know that the Lord values it so much? Well, we see it's inception and beginnings in the book of Matthew and it is also recorded in Mark 8 and Luke 9 and it is then fleshed out completely in the book of Acts. So this morning we won't

get into the evolving of the Church, just simply it's beginning and it's incredible importance of spreading the Gospel to the ends of the earth and why we should all deeply value the Church and of course the Gospel!

The Conversation Vs 13-14

There had been lots of talk about Jesus and it wasn't that He didn't know what they were saying, He wanted the disciples to share what they had heard, to help them process all that was being said in comparison to what Jesus had said – it was almost like a final exam, they had been with him almost 2 and ½ years and did they really get it and understand. Though they didn't get it all, they do declare here clearly that they understood who Jesus was and who He claimed to be.

The Confession Vs 15-16

Now it comes down to them – it's one on one if you will and though they all had to answer in their hearts, Peter is the spokesman and answers. But let me be clear, this is the most important question that every man will have to answer – who is Jesus? There have been many wonderful things said about Jesus and many awful things, many true and untrue, but suffice it is to say, what the Bible says about Jesus matters most and we must deal with His claims as being the Son of God! Peter declares clearly: You are the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One – you are the one we have been waiting for and longing for, not just some other prophet or great teacher or moral man or miracle worker, you are the Son of the Living God, our Savior!

The Commendation Vs 17

You didn't come up with this one your own, God has revealed to you through My teaching and showing you. But you are blessed, we are blessed when we realize who He is and understand this truth – it is the single most important thing we must learn, understand, and accept in our lifetimes – Who Jesus is and accepting Him as our Savior and Lord!

The Church Vs 18-20

✓ **The Foundation the Church** – the foundation is Jesus Christ, He is the chief cornerstone as Scripture tells us elsewhere – it is not built on Peter himself thus he was never declared to be the first Pope. You have to

look at the Greek to see *petros* (little rock) and *petra* (mountain) – it's on your faith, on this confession that I will build my Church. It's on the teaching and leading of the 12 disciples. Note: Peter's rebuke from Jesus, not the best start... Notice, it's I – Jesus will do it. It's not up to us! It's built upon Him, and if it's built on anything other than Him we are in big trouble.

- ✓ **The Certainty of the Church** - Christ will build His Church – the Church as a whole – here the Church described is not the church that is birthed in Acts – but more in a general sense. It is not faithful believers who build Christ's Church but it is Christ who builds His church through faithful believers. When Christ says He will do something, He always does, always every time!
- ✓ **The Ownership of the Church** It's His and not mine – we will talk more in depth about that in the coming weeks, but it's Christ church and not mine or yours or your parents, grandparents, charter members, it's the Lord's and may we never stray from that!
- ✓ **The Fellowship of the Church** This is important where we see the fellowship between Jesus and His church and then that between the believers in the church – this word *ekklesia* – though used in a broad sense here, they didn't understand yet what was to happen in the just a year or so and beyond with the church and churches being formed in the book of Acts and beyond. This is the first use of this word here.
- ✓ **The Invincibility of the Church** The gates of hell itself cannot stand against the church – it has been tried to be eliminated, stomped out, suppressed, repressed, persecuted and yet the Church grows all the more – it's why the church is growing faster and quicker in other parts of the world like China because of this threat – we are too at ease in Zion here in America! Bottom line nothing can overpower or conquer the church!
- ✓ **The Authority of the Church** The church has incredible authority to clearly declare the truths of the Word of God and that the only way to Heaven is Jesus!

The Cross

Vs 21

Here we see Jesus begin to clearly teach them, though He had said it before and alluded to it, Jesus sets His sights on the ultimate reason of why He came to this earth – to suffer and die for the sins of the disciples and

the whole world! Here in lies this gospel – Jesus had to die for our sins, a sacrifice had to be offered to pay the penalty of our sin – Jesus was to take on the sin of the world so that our sins could be forgiven and we could be set free – the only way that we can receive eternal life is to accept what Jesus did for us on the cross. And then to rise again, for if he just died for our sin, he would not have defeated death, hell and the grave, but He did! This is the Gospel and why He came and it is what we must stake our lives upon! This is the message that must be shared with the world!

The Confrontation Vs 22-23

Peter as usual puts his foot in his mouth, maybe in this case all the way down his throat and makes a bold declaration – even rebuking Jesus, telling Him that I forbid it to happen! – yet before we are to hard on him, they were so distraught at what He as telling them, they didn't want Him to die or suffer, and that would not turn out the way they had hoped or expected. Even more they most likely missed the part where He said He would rise again! Yet it in his doing so, he was rejecting God's plan for salvation for the whole world! It had to happen this way.

Jesus' answer was strong and swift even though Peter's answer intention was honorable and compassionate. Yet by his statement he was placing an arrow in the bow of Satan himself to be shot at the Savior! Great principle for us to learn here – that Satan can use us when we are not completely yielded to the Lord and His perfect divine will to be his instrument to cause havoc, harm, and even destruction by what we say or how we live our lives. We must be careful and as Jesus clearly said, Peter your mind isn't on God's interest's but man's. That is our greatest problem too! He was focusing on only what He could see and hear and feel and what he understood.

The Call Come After Me Vs 24-27

So at the heels of that, Jesus clearly shows them what must happen if they want to truly be His followers, His disciples and what that would look like and what would be required of them. He sets up the ultimate irony and paradox from the world's point of view and one that we must also answer today. What will say about Jesus and what will do with Him? And once we do that, we also have to ask ourselves, are we truly willing to take up this call that Jesus places on our lives? Will we be a fan or a follower?

- ✓ **Deny Yourself** same word used when Peter denied Christ. Word means to completely disown, utterly separate oneself from someone. We are to utterly disown ourselves, to refuse to acknowledge the old man. Deny what our flesh desires, deny what we want, and desire what He wants!
- ✓ **Take Up Your Cross Daily** willing to pay the price of being a Christ follower not matter what that looks like – and we’re not talking about the statement – well it’s my cross to bear! It is a willingness to endure shame, embarrassment, reproach, rejection, persecution and even martyrdom for His sake! To the people of this day, it was a very real and gruesome image!
- ✓ **Follow Me** It’s the blank piece of paper, whenever, wherever, however, and whatever – I’ll do it and I’ll go – It’s I have decided to follow Jesus – no turning back, though none go with me, my cross I’ll carry

The Reward & Paradox – In dying is when you truly live, not the other way around!! We only find our lives when we truly lose it! Even if you could gain the whole world, possess the whole world everything in it, and yet forfeit you soul? Is worth that exchange? NO way! Not even that great of an offer – nothing is better than following Jesus and the reward that it brings – life, eternal life!

The Commission 28:18-20

- ✓ **Go & Tell Everywhere to Everyone**
- ✓ **Baptize Them**
- ✓ **Teach Them**
- ✓ **Make Disciples**

I will make you fisher’s of men – great commission - Matthew 4:18-22

Will you abandon it all for the Sake of the Call?