

Jesus' church

back to basics | week one

post falls campus | september 17th & 20th | jim putman



God has placed things in our lives to keep us reminded of spiritual reality—the upper story

- If you forget the past, you are doomed to repeat it
- Humans forget easily
- We have an enemy
- The bible tells us to remember/don't forget around 1,200 times

The church is God's idea | Matthew 5:13–16 (NIV) ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

There will be an enemy to face, but there will be victory ultimately | Matthew 16:17–18 (NIV)

The church's beginning | Acts 2:41–46 (NIV)

The potential problems described in Scripture that had to be dealt with as the church grew

1. Jesus' church – stays aware and alert

- The context of Ephesians 6
- There will be an enemy to face, but there will be victory ultimately
- What is the enemy's goal for this?
- What does God want to do with this?

Matthew 16:17–18 (NIV) | Revelation 3:3 (NIV)

Ephesians 6:18 (NIV) ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

2. Jesus' church is unified

- Ephesians 4—One Lord, one faith, one baptism

1 Corinthians 1:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

3. Jesus' church is other-centered

- It's going to be a Holy Spirit miracle if we are going to make it
- So many perspectives –experiences –giftings –filters
- Nuances we don't know exist
- Echo chambers in our minds – we are not aware of other perspectives that might impact other people's thinking

Romans 12:3–5 (NIV) | Philippians 2:1–11 (NIV)

4. Jesus' church is grace-dependent – and grace-giving

Ephesians 4:1–6 (NIV) | Ecclesiastes 7:9 (NIV): “Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools.”

Proverbs 19:11 (NIV) | 1 Corinthians 13:5 (NIV)

James 1:19–20 (NIV): “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.”

Colossians 3:13 (NIV)

5. Jesus' church seeks the glory of God – how we act glorifies Him or it doesn't

Ephesians 3:7–11 (NIV) | 1 Peter 2:4–5 (NIV): As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

6. How we treat other believers impacts Jesus personally

Acts 9:4–5 (NIV) | Matthew 25:40 (NIV): “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

How do we do it?

- Like Jesus – we submit to God and His plan
- We abide in Christ – Only by the power of the Holy Spirit can we live this out
- In humility, commit to one another for the glory of God and the good of others

