



SERMON NOTES

Keys of the Kingdom

Midweek Sermon

Pastor Carl Toti

May 6, 2020

Matthew 16:13-19 (NKJV)

13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

"...the key of knowledge," Luke 11:52

"...the keys of death and of Hades," Rev. 1:18

"...the key of David," Rev. 3:7

"...the key of the pit of the abyss," Rev. 9:1

Keys of the kingdom speaks of the possessor of those keys having the highest conceivable authority, an authority exceeded only by God himself!

The possessor of those keys can act in the name of the Lord, having access to the splendor, wealth, and might of the kingdom of God.

Whatever the person speaks in harmony with the purpose of God will be supported by all the resources of heaven.

Keys to open and shut the gates of the city.

Peter used the keys to open the gates of Pentecost to the Jewish people (Acts 2), then later to the Samaritans (Acts 8:14), and finally to the Gentiles (Acts 10).

On another occasion, Peter would use the key to unlock the Holy Spirit to Gentiles (Acts 10).

Paul had the privilege of "opening the door of faith" to the Gentiles outside of Israel (Acts 14:27).

We are gatekeepers—

Psalm 84:10 (NKJV)

10 For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

We open the way of salvation to others when we serve and share.

BINDING AND LOOSING

In Jewish circles it meant to "authorize" or oppose", to "open or to shut."

FOUR IMPORTANT KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

1. THE KEY OF _____

Opens up amazing possibilities

Mark 11:22-24 (NKJV)

22 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

2. THE KEY OF _____

Opens up heaven.

James 4:2c (NIV)

"...You do not have, because you do not ask God."

3. THE KEY OF _____

The key of tithing opens up the windows of heaven.

Malachi 3:10 (ESV)

10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

4. THE KEY OF _____

Opens up healing to a world sick with hatred.

1 Corinthians 13:8a (NKJV)

8 Love never fails.

Two things that make the keys ineffective in a person's life.

1. Unbelief.
2. Acting outside the will of God.

Answers:

1. FAITH
2. PRAYER
3. GENEROSITY
4. LOVE