

BUILD – Matthew 16:15-18 – Martin Bull – 10/09/2017

Introduction

Jesus promised to build his church – “...on this rock I will build my church...” (Matt 16:18)

Yet, many people describe themselves as having ‘no religion’. However, ‘no religion’ is not the same as atheist.

- People often very open to praying, hearing & sharing but have not made the decision to follow Jesus yet.
- Only 29% of 18-25s would describe themselves as ‘religious’ or having a particular faith.

Important time to build the church!...And Jesus has promised to do that

1. Jesus Builds his church

Peter acknowledges Jesus = Messiah and Son of God

- Messiah = Christ = promised saviour, “anointed one,” figure of finality in God’s plans for salvation.

The church is built on people who realise, recognise, confess and live out who Jesus truly is.

Peter himself recognised that Jesus is the only true foundation. We need to strive to be the same. 1 Peter 2:4-8

2. Building the Well church

2.1 Create more projects?

- Language school, Glow, Youth outreach

Good but only one part

2.2 Include more people?

More members – that’s building the church....Increases serving capacity, giving capacity, presence across town

We do want to reach out and see people saved = building the church...

2.3 Personal growth?

- Spiritual growth of each person, leadership training tracks for all
- “Build big people, not a big church.” (Wayne Cordeiro)

God said – “foundations for 200” – Preparing for seasons of growth – He build his church – we build each other up

We’re seeking to build Big People – and let Jesus build the church he wants

3. Building big people

3.1 Solid people

For me – Big people come in all shapes and sizes. Big people are solid.

Jesus said he’d build his church on Peter – on account of his faith and understanding of Who Jesus is.

We need to build solid foundations – knowing what we believe and why.

- “...you are fellow citizens with God’s people...built on the foundation of the apostles & prophets...” (Eph 2)

New series in October – “I believe...and why it matters” – fundamentals we’d cover on Leadership training course.

We want to build strong people on solid foundations.

3.2 In God’s eyes – Big people are people who “yield”

Big people are those who yield to God and to one another other.

“The role of a pastor is not to grow a big church...it’s to grow mature disciples who make disciples.” Rick Howerton

1. Being a **disciple** = the fundamental bible pattern/vehicle of being a Christian.
2. Includes **multiplication** = growth and building – disciples making disciples

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves & take up their cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)

We’ll never build a healthy church or large church if:

- Not willing to yield to the Holy Spirit, falling out, grumbling & complaining

Conclusion

Live at a time when people are increasingly God unaware – God confused. We are the ones to make them see.

Jesus has promised to build his church – we are the bricks he’s building with.

- I want to help us be solid bricks – teaching into that – “I believe” series
- I want to help us be yielding bricks – to each other – God
- I want to build us strong and together – dwelling place of God – People see and know and come...

Questions to consider:

How have you yielded to God lately?

- Thought?
- Actions? Not only avoiding 'bad' things' but also actively serving God

Are your finances yielded to God?

- Building comes at a cost: Toddler group, Alpha course

How have you yielded to another member of the church lately?

- Who have you gone out of your way for lately?
- Who have you chosen to think the best of? (Rather than get angry)

Jesus has promised to build his church – we are the bricks he's building with

- I want to help us be solid bricks – teaching into that I believe
- I want to help us be yielding brick – to each other – God
- I want to build us strong and together – dwelling place of God – People see and know and come...