

Going Deeper Questions
I Will Build My Church
Matthew 16:13-21
November 29, 2009

1. Jeremy shared the story “Hooway for Wodney Wat.” Its about a rat who struggles with fitting in. Have you ever felt like you don’t fit in? Share a story of when you were with others and you felt like you didn’t fit in. Why do you think we struggle with this?
 - a. *If that is a bit too deep here is a lighter question:* The story Jeremy shared about “Wodney Wat” is a children’s book. Can you recall your favorite children’s book when you were a kid (e.g., “Where the Wild Things Are,” “One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish,” “Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel,” etc.)? Why do you think you liked those stories; what made them engaging?

2. Jeremy showed how Jesus being the Christ meant that He was the one to fulfill all that the Bible promises (remember the fill-in-the-blanks of the 7 things of what it meant that Jesus is the Christ?). What has your concept of Jesus as the Christ (or “Jesus Christ”) meant to you before the sermon? How has your concept of Jesus as the Christ changed? What difference should that make in your life?

3. The Church is built on the rock of the Holy Spirit. Read these passages and describe how the Holy Spirit works: 1 Corinthians 12:1-14; Ephesians 4:1-6; Philippians 2:1-2; 3:3; Colossians 1:3-8.
 - a. Go back over the passages that Jeremy went through in the sermon, and discuss how you think we are doing as a church in allowing the Holy Spirit to work through us (Ephesians 5:18-21; Colossians 3:16-17).

4. In your outline (on the bulletin), under Roman numeral III and letter “a,” it tells us why we exist as a church.
 - a. Read Matthew 16:18 again, and discuss how we, as a church, are supposed to carry out what Jesus said we are to carry out. How do you think we are doing? How can we get better at it?
 - b. Read 1 Peter 2:9. What can we do this week to do what this passage says we ought to do?

5. Do you remember how Jeremy described Matthew 16:19 (III b)? According to this passage (reading the verbs carefully, and understanding their tenses. Remember that to ‘bind and loose’ is an idiom for forbidding and permitting), what must be the practice of a church if it wants to stay healthy? (hint: Jeremy mentioned it in the sermon). How healthy do you think we are as a church?