



VISION DAY 2003

What is Jesus' vision for the church? (Matt. 16:13-18)

1. Built on _____
"Who do **you** say I am?" Matt. 16:15 "You are the Christ, the Son of God."
Matt. 16:16

2. Built with _____
"You are blessed, Simon... Now I tell you that you are **Peter**..." Matt. 16:17

3. Built by _____
"...and on this rock I will build my church..." Matt. 16:17

4. Built for _____
"...and the gates of Hades will **not** overcome it." Matt. 16:17

How it looked in the early church...

"They devoted themselves to the **apostles' teaching** and to the **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was **filled with awe**, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, **they gave to anyone as he had need**. Every day **they continued to meet together** in the temple courts. **They broke bread in their homes and ate together** with glad and sincere hearts, **praising God** and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord **added to their number daily those who were being saved**." Acts 2:42-47

Five purposes of the church in this description...

- 1. _____
•This gives me _____ to live on
- 2. _____
•This gives me _____ to live with

- 3. _____
•This gives me _____ to live by
- 4. _____
•This gives me _____ to live out
- 5. _____
•This gives me _____ to live for

Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today's topic!

This week's memory verse: "I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." Matthew 16:18

Monday

Read Matthew 16:13-19. This is the first description of the church by Jesus, and it's such a helpful corrective to our common fears and misconceptions. For example: Do you ever feel inadequate to serve the Lord? How so?

How does it encourage you to know that Jesus built his church with normal people like Peter?

Do you ever have fear of the future? In what way?

How is it inspiring to know that Jesus builds the church, and not us-- and that his church will not be overcome even by the gates of hell?

It's important to know that the church is built on personal confession of faith in Jesus. In prayer today, think of Jesus asking you, "Who do you say I am?" How do you respond? Give Him your worries and fears right now.

Tuesday

Read Acts 2:42-47. What impresses you or appeals to you about this description?

Obviously our culture has changed, but how would you like to see Twin Lakes Church better reflect this description?

What can you do to help make your vision of the early church a reality?

I'm convinced that the church grows as the Holy Spirit lays on each person's heart a burden to develop a specific one of the five purposes of the church: Worship, fellowship, discipleship, service, or evangelism. Ask God to show you which of these five purposes he is leading you-- at this point in your spiritual life-- to help develop in the body!

Wednesday

The five purposes of the church are seen all through Scripture. For example, read Matthew 22:37-40. This is the "Great Commandment", where Jesus talks about worship ("love the Lord...") and service and fellowship (if you "love your neighbor" you will fellowship and serve him!).

Read Matthew 28:18-20. Here is Jesus' "Great Commission" to the church-- he talks about evangelism ("go and make disciples"); and discipleship ("teaching them to obey"). We also see the five purposes in Acts 2 and all through Paul's epistles to the church. How do the five purposes meet basic human needs?

I find that we tend to focus on one or two purposes-- we're "wired" that way. Which ones do you gravitate toward?

Which purposes do you need to focus on developing in your life?

Which purposes do you think our church does well with?

Which purposes do you think we need to focus on developing?

How can you help the church accomplish its purposes?

Ask God to show you how you can participate in all five purposes of His church! Pray for Twin Lakes and all the churches of Santa Cruz County you're familiar with-- that they would honor God and fulfill His purposes for them!

Thursday

Spend some time in the first purpose of the church-- worship-- today! Read Psalm 105:1-5. Give thanks to God today for some of his "wonderful acts". Look back on the highlights of TLC ministries you heard about last weekend and give God praise for those!

What benefits do we receive from praising and worshipping God?

How has time spent in worship blessed you?

Why do we sometimes neglect this basic need?

Spend time in prayer right now just worshipping and giving thanks to God! Connect to the power source!

Friday

Sometimes we get a little nervous about one of the purposes of the church-- evangelism, or outreach. It's probably the one that drives us out of our comfort zones the most. Read 1 Peter 3:15,16. What do these verses say about how to evangelize?

How can you be more prepared to practice this purpose of the church?

Ask God to put on your mind today two or three names of people to whom you need to reach out. Pray for opportunities-- and be prepared to share your love for Jesus and invite them to church.

Saturday

Look back over your notes and devotions. Finish up any you may have missed, and pray for this weekend's services. Ask God to prepare your heart for what He has for you this weekend!