

## THAT THEY MAY BE ONE: TRUSTING GOD TO BUILD

Sunday message from July 24, 2022

~ Notes & Reflections ~

**We value joyful commitment to Jesus, reliance on the Holy Spirit and trust in our Father with all our heart, soul and mind.**

- **Trust is foundational to the Christian faith.**
  - ❖ How is trust foundational to faith?
  - ❖ How has Jesus (also Father God and Holy Spirit) earned your trust? Or not?
  - ❖ How might we/you have trusted the church or the pastor (or other things) instead of Jesus?
- **Trust is often abused. But, Jesus gives us a completely different way.**
  - ❖ How have you experienced abuse of trust?
  - ❖ Slowly read Matthew 16.13-20. What stands out to you? How do you see the concept of trust there?
  - ❖ Jesus says, “I will build my church” (v18). How does this truth affect our trust of God and others?
- **We can participate in Jesus’ work of building the church.**
  - ❖ Slowly read 1 Corinthians 12.27 (for context, read 12.12-27). What stands out to you? What can you understand about your role in building the church from this passage?
- **Jesus asks, “Who do you say that I am?” (Matthew 16.15)**
  - ❖ How might you answer this question?
  - ❖ Allow this question to penetrate a layer deeper. Will you allow Jesus to interrogate your heart, to shine his light into the dark corners? What might Jesus find and how might he interact with you?
- **Often, when we invite Jesus to illuminate our hearts, what is revealed are mixed motives.**
  - ❖ Read Matthew 16.21-23. Consider Peter’s response compared with verse 16.
  - ❖ How does Jesus’ interaction with Peter sit with you? Does it resonate, encourage, challenge you? Why?
- **We are tempted to think that Jesus will only build his church the way we think he should.**
  - ❖ How might you be expecting Jesus to build his church (or advance his kingdom)? How does this compare to Jesus’ way (Matthew 16.21)?
- **Jesus will build his church not because of us, but often in spite of us.**
  - ❖ How might belief that Jesus will work regardless of what we do bring rest for your soul?
  - ❖ How might allowing Jesus to ask questions of your heart be liberating? How have you experienced this?
  - ❖ Jesus sees and loves you, so you don’t have to fear. (see 1 John 4.15-18)
- **The way forward is to follow Jesus together.**
  - ❖ Read Matthew 16.24. What does it look like to follow Jesus in daily life?
  - ❖ Allowing others to journey closely with you is part of how you invite Jesus to transform you. How might you take a step deeper into this?
  - ❖ What might God be inviting you into as a response to this message/reflection on trust?
  - ❖ How do you see our value of Trust intersecting with our mission of Engaging with God, Journeying Together and Spreading Hope? How do you see it intersecting with our other values of Grace, Humility, Family, Courage and Community?