

Word notes Sunday 12/9/2010 Tony Hodge
Jesus promise to build his Church

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: Matthew 16:13-19

When Peter was inspired by the Holy Spirit to declare that Jesus is the Christ Jesus in turn declared that this was the rock on which he would build his church. What other promises of Jesus (I will....) show us how he would do this?

- 1, Jesus only does what he sees the Father doing – a builder of good reputation
 - 2, Jesus demonstrated the truth of his claims by his resurrection – a reliable builder
 - 3, Jesus uses appropriate methods to build his church – not a church of bricks and mortar but of people.
- The things he promised to do were:

- Offer salvation – accepting all who would come to him
- Give new purpose to lives.
- Bring healing
- Answer prayer – also to pray for us and enable us to pray for ourselves
- Speak clearly rather than figuratively
- Send the Holy Spirit

Is this a builder we trust? Will we allow him to build in our lives by firstly responding to his offer of salvation then through healing, prayer, listening to him and through the actions of the Holy Spirit?

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

1. If money were no object how would you go about choosing a builder?
2. Jesus said he would build his church on a rock. Who or what is the rock, was it Peter whom he called rock, Jesus himself or someone/something else?
3. In verse 18 the Greek word translated as “Peter” is petros – a rock or a stone (pebble), and “rock” is petra - a rock, cliff or ledge (check if you have a Greek NT or Strongs). Does the difference between these support your answer to 2 above?
4. How can a misunderstanding of what Jesus says in verse 18 lead to problems when seeking to understand verse 19?
5. If revelation that Jesus is the Christ is the foundation on which Jesus builds his church relate your own personal experience of Jesus to this. For example how and when did you realise that was true?
6. In what ways is Jesus building you and NCC right now?

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Talk about the people whom individuals and the cell collectively are praying for, witnessing to or seeking to reach.

How can we help each other to reach these people?