

**Scripture:** Matthew 16:13-20 & 18:1-6 Heidelberg Cat. 31.83-84  
**Singing:** 168:1-5 – 290:3-7 -- 420:1-2 – 255:3-4

Observe *context* in which Jesus granted His disciples the *keys of the Kingdom*

- A. He led them to a *firmer footing*: Ch. 16:13-19
- B. He led them to *greater understanding of His mission*: Ch. 16:21-29
- C. He led into a *strong confirmation of His glory and power*: Ch. 17
- D. He led to see *how to deal with sinners and their sin*: Ch. 19:1-14; 21-35
- E. He led them to *clear directions*: Ch. 18:15-20

### **THE KEYS OF GOD’S KINGDOM (1)**

I. Who owns these keys? II. Who are called to use these keys?

III. How are these keys to be used?

#### **I. WHO OWNS THESE KEYS?**

- A. Jesus handed over *His* keys (Matt. 16:19)
  - 1. Teaches that He has the supreme authority and power over all of our lives
  - 2. Teaches us that merely made others stewards of His keys

#### **II. WHO ARE ALLOWED TO USE THESE KEYS?**

- A. All those Christ called to **lead** in church: Matt. 16:19; 18:18 & John 20:23
  - 1. In Matt. 16:19: Jesus used ‘singular’ (thee) to speak to Peter
  - 2. in Matt. 18:18 & John 20:23 Jesus used ‘plural: *His disciples – church*
- B. Further NT teaching narrowed it to *those appointed by God thru church*
  - 1. God distinguishes two kinds of elders: 1 Tim. 5:17; 1 Thess. 5:12-13
    - a. those that rule
    - b. those that teach
  - 2. Each kind of elder received one key of the Kingdom
    - a. Ruling Elders: *key of Christian discipline*
    - b. Teaching Elders: *key of preaching of Gospel* (elders oversee)
  - 3. Both offices are to be *lawfully obtained* through God’s calling: Rom. 10:15 and 1 Tim. 3 and Titus 1

### III. How is the key of *preaching of the Gospel* to be used?

#### A. Through the preaching of the 'holy Gospel' to every hearer

1. The preaching of Law *closes for us all access to God – Kingdom of God*
  
2. But the preaching of Gospel *opens the access to King & all His benefits*
  - a. in the Gospel God declares He has thoughts of peace (2 Cor. 5:19-20)
  
  - b. in the Gospel Jesus declares His ableness and willingness: Rev. 3:20
  
  - c. what is God's design in preaching this Gospel to us? Canons 3/4, art 19

#### B. Through preaching of God's justifying declaration of all believers

1. Isaiah 40:1-2 – Is. 3:10 – Acts 10:43 - 1 John 2:12 - 1Cor. 6:11
  
2. God's ambassadors received a key to open Gospel treasures
  - a. consider the assurance of God's Gospel promise: John 3:18 a & 36a
  
  - b. consider the 'woe if a preacher does not preach the Gospel'

#### C. Through preaching of God's declaration to all unbelievers and insincere

1. Is. 3:11 - John 3:18b – 36b
  - a. to be unconverted is to be disobedient to Acts 3:19 & 17:30
  
  - b. do not soothe and put yourself to sleep with wrong thinking about your conversion
  
  - c. heed God's call before you hear God's sentence: Acts 3:23
  
  - d. fear to meet a rejected and dishonored God and Jesus: Heb 2:3
  
  - e. know there will be multiple witnesses on God's side
  
2. Be reminded: *God will not always have 'grace-days'* (Is. 55:6-7)
  - a. the time is short – the eternity is long
  
  - b. hasten to Him you angered as He is still near to save you (Acts 5:31)

