

"I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH"

Read Matthew 16:13-18

The crisis that we are all experiencing together is so sudden, so unexpected - and it has thrust us into a moment that none of us could plan for. It is not unlike September 11, 2001 in that regard. That day changed the way that we live in. Likewise, this pandemic has completely changed the way that we live in the short-term and will undoubtedly have lasting effects that ripple far beyond the initial wave of illnesses. Businesses will shutter. People will lose jobs. And ultimately people we know may die. But what about the church? How will we come out on the other side? We were already in numerical decline, especially in New England.

The encouragement from this passage is that Jesus is building his Church and nothing can stand in the way. It's not the pastors who build the church. Not the elders or deacons. Not our programs, music or our outreach strategies. Jesus is building his church - *in the midst of a global pandemic.*

Question: If it were up to you, how would you like for it to come out on the other side? Take a moment to think about that. Consider that Jesus built his movement on this little statement: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Nothing else. That belief changed the disciples and continues to change the world. How would your own vision of the church change if it were reduced to that simple statement. Stay tuned... we'll see!

Grace and Peace!

Pastor Grant



QUESTIONS:

1. How does "church" look for you now that we are not able to meet together?
2. What are the essential components of the church, and how do we practice them when we are in isolation?
3. When it all comes down, how does your belief that Jesus is God ground you in this crisis?