



“It’s Time to Pick a Fight”

IceBreaker: School starts this week!!! Who do you know that is going back to school this week?

Read: Matthew 16:13-18

Pastor Jason started out with a definition of what the Church is to be. *“The church of Jesus Christ has nothing to do with what I want. And this may be shocking, it has nothing to do with what you want either. The church of Jesus Christ is to be obsessed with what Jesus intended the church to be. It’s to be obsessed with what Jesus intended His blood to actually purchase and create and call us and anoint us to be in the world that He has called us to be in. And many times, that’s what we miss!”*

Discuss:

- Have you seen the church look like that?
- God wants to reshape some things. What might He be reshaping in you and the church you attend?

Jesus takes His disciples to a specific geographical location to teach them. Cesarea Philipi at the base of Mt. Hermon is a region known in the Jewish world as the demonic geographical location of evil spirits. The place at which satan and other fallen angels convened to make a plan to go after humankind. Zeus and Pan were worshipped there. While they are there, in that very spot, Jesus asks them, “Who do you say that I am?”

Discuss:

- Who do you say that Jesus is?
- Why do the fallen angels hate mankind?
- Who did God give authority and dominion over His creation?

Jesus says that “Upon this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.”

1. What is the “Rock” Jesus is talking about?

Discuss:

- Interpretation #1: The Church will be built on Peter.
 - Did you grow up believing this interpretation? Why or why not?
- Interpretation #2: The Church will be built on God by Jesus as the Messiah and Savior of the world.
 - Was this your understanding?

2. What was Jesus saying?

I will build my Church on top of the gates of Hell and its gates will crumble under its force. The gates would not be able to withstand what God has called us to do!

Jesus said He's gonna go die and give authority to His people over all darkness and strategies of the enemy, and the purpose of the church is to charge the gates of hell, dismantle them and to free the world that has been enslaved and held captive by the enemy! That's the purpose of the church!!! SOMEBODY STAND UP AND WAVE A HANKIE!!!

Jesus said that we have authority. It's time to pick a fight!! Poke the devil in the eye. We are charging that hill. It belongs to us. We are going to undo what satan has done to humanity.

Discuss:

- Friends, what are the things that you are afraid to stand against?
- What things intimidate you and feel like they are impossible?
- How does the preaching of the Gospel break down those strongholds?
- Moms and Dads, you have authority. You can command the enemy to get out of your house. Do you feel like you can do this? Give an example of a time you have sent the enemy packing.
- In the church, the enemy can divide over things that don't have to do with the kingdom. What issues tend to distract you?

Read and DELCARE: Matthew 16:19 (NIV)

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Pray together:

Father, please give us a Kingdom mindset. Help us to filter everything through You and Your call on our lives! Please show us what is Your cause and what is not. Help us to storm the gates of hell in unity and oneness of heart! We need You to keep us focused. Help us not to lose sight of You!!! In Jesus' Name, Amen.