



BREAKING THE ICE

If you were given a one year sabbatical for work, what would you do?

How do you want to be remembered?

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This week we finished up the final week of the Colossians series by talking about the church.

1. What is the one thing that has resonated with you during this series the last few weeks?

As a church, we are surrounded by people going through hard things. We are not alone to deal with the curveballs life throws at us. That's the beauty of the church, other followers of Jesus can give us words of advice and encouragement as they have been through difficult times too.

2 Who has God surrounded you by to help carry you through tough times? What makes those relationships unique and special?

One thing we have learned in the last few weeks is that the church is not fragile. The things around us and the world around us may be fragile but God's church is not.

In Matthew 16, starting in verse 13, we see where Jesus took some of His disciples on a field trip. He took them to Caesarea Philippi. Caesarea Philippi was a city known for pagan worship, where many people followed other gods. It was a dark and lost city.

Read Matthew 16:13-18

Jesus took the disciples to this town to show them the hope He can bring to the most hopeless areas. He was revealing how His church was being built in the middle of the darkness of this world, how His people

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are willing to risk their lives, reputations and resources to show hope to a dying world.

3. How have you experienced this kind of church in your life?

You may not have experienced the kind of church that will do everything they can to show Jesus' love. That's not Jesus' heart. His heart is to show love, compassion, kindness, grace and mercy. The people of His church show love to God (upward), love to one another in His kingdom (inward) and love to those who don't know Him (outward).

4. How do you experience these 3 types of love in your life?

Jesus promised that He will build His church and the gates of hell will not prevail. As the world around us has been shaky, the church has prevailed.

The church has prevailed and is not fragile because the church belongs to Jesus. When people try to control church, it will fail. The Church belongs to Him. He died for everyone, including the people in His church. It's His church.

5. Where do you see Jesus most clearly in the church? Explain.

The church is not fragile because Jesus is building His church.

Read Psalm 127:1-2

We can build buildings but Jesus builds His church. God is always working so we can rest in knowing He has it under control. We get to petition Him and intercede for someone, to experience Him. We can pray, we can serve, we can love but only Jesus can change their hearts. We come to Jesus, asking Him to change us to look more like Him, and through the changes He makes in us, we pray that others can see Him and draw near to Him.

6. How have you, or do you, try to control only what God can do in you and His church?

The church is not fragile because Jesus is the foundation of the church. Other organizations and people are fallible, Jesus is perfect. He will never fail. He will never make a mistake. He always has one more move.

7. Where does your life feel fragile right now?

PRAYER

Jesus, thank you for being the answer and always having the last move in our lives. Where we feel fragile in life right now, will your Holy Spirit fill us with the power we need to get through this time? Will you bring peace to those of us who feel fear in our lives? Where we are trying to take control, will you help us release it to you? Give us rest in you, knowing you are not fragile and you delight in us coming to you for your help and guidance. Thank you for your faithfulness and thank you for dying for us. In Jesus name, Amen.

ACTION STEPS

Take some time this week to journal where you have seen Christ's faithfulness to you in the last 6 months. Thank Jesus for how He cares for you and where He has been strong for you.