



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Keys of the Kingdom

SPEAKER Pastor Jason Teo

THEME Unstoppable Church

DATE November 26 & 27, 2016

MESSAGE SUMMARY

The Keys of the Kingdom (Matthew 16:18-19)

Jesus came to usher in the Kingdom of God. When He came, the domain of darkness was shaken through His work and ministry of setting the captives free. More importantly, His work has been completed at the cross of Calvary. Although He has physically left us for a while, He does not intend to let the work of setting the captives free end upon His ascent. Before He left, He handed to us the **keys of the kingdom**; keys which we can use to help usher in the Kingdom of God.

This sermon was an examination of the keys that Jesus has given us, and the practical ways they can be used in our lives today, as we fulfil the purpose of the church.

1. Gates of Hades

Ephesians 6:12 tells us of the battle that Christians have to face. This battle is not one of flesh and blood, and but is fought in the spiritual realm. The war we wage is one that has very real consequences. Daniel 11 reveals a scenario where an angel of the Lord who was to speak to Daniel was held back by a spiritual power for 21 days, preventing Daniel from getting his answer. This is the truth of the world that we are living in: We are fighting a spiritual war and we cannot be ignorant or we will become a casualty.

Demonic forces operate in many different ways and we need to be alert. The devil works to blind unbelievers from knowing the truth (2 Corinthians 4:4). He is also able to gain footholds in our lives through our sin, and attack us as we make room for him – knowingly or otherwise. Through ungodly vows, ungodly beliefs, ungodly soul ties, defilement, bitterness and curses, we shackle ourselves and restrict our own freedom. This sin that entangles robs us of our freedom and our blessings from God, prevents us from fully utilising our spiritual gifts, limits our authority and hinders our transformation to become more like Jesus.

2. Keys are given to the church

In His conversation with Peter, Jesus informs him that he will be given the keys of the Kingdom. But what are these keys exactly (Matthew 17:19)?

1. The Name of Jesus

Jesus' name is incredibly powerful and in His name, even demons are subject to us (Luke 10:17). There is a hierarchy of power in the demonic world, and we have been given authority that supersedes that of the enemy and even the ability to trample on serpents and scorpions. This is because Satan has long been defeated (Luke 10:18) and the authority that has been delegated is more than sufficient for us to overcome him; the caveat being that we are surrendered to God as we resist the devil (James 4:7).

2. The key of knowledge

The key of knowledge is mentioned in Luke 11:52 and in John 8:32. The importance of truth is made plain: The truth is able to set us free. Some examples of such kinds of truth:

- a. **Our weapons have the divine power to destroy strongholds.**
- b. **The power of darkness has already been overcome.**

It is important to note that the truth cuts both ways. While there are benefits depicted in the Bible, many of them are conditional. As we acquire knowledge in the Word of God, it is vital for us to apply it.

3. The Key of faith

The shield of faith enables us to stand against the fiery darts of the evil one, which sows doubt in our hearts and wars with our desire to obey God. One biblical example is that of the 12 spies. While the promised land of the Israelites seemed to be virtually impregnable, Caleb and Joshua had faith that Lord was faithful, though the other 10 spies did not. This lack of faith meant the entire generation except Caleb and Joshua failed to enter the promised land.

Conversely, it was by faith that the walls of Jericho, deemed to be an impregnable fortress, fell without Israel having to fight – the Lord fought for them. In the same way that Joshua and the Caleb had faith in God, we need to keep our eyes on Jesus.

3. The Church on the Offensive

Without a doubt, the church is under attack. However, Jesus has assured us that it will not prevail. The keys given to us allow us to bind and to loose. Binding is the enforcement of the sentence God has already pronounced on the demonic forces. We do this through prayer, gathering as the body of Christ in an intentional effort to carry out the Father's will. Thereafter, we loose the angel armies of God through prayer and take possession of the land.

CONCLUSION

Whether we choose to recognise it or not, we are in a spiritual battle daily. We have been given a mission that the devil works behind the scenes to undermine. We have been given the keys of the Kingdom to stand our ground against the schemes of the evil one, but the question remains: *Will we be faithful with the talents that the Lord has given us, or will we cower and ignore the fact that we have failed to serve the generation and the very mission entrusted to us?*

QUESTIONS

What are some of the domains that you see the “gates of hades” in operation today?

We have the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. So why do we still sometimes operate as though we remain shackled at the gates of Hades? Describe an area in your life where you used to live as such, and how you were able to break free from bondage.

We need to move from mere possession of the keys to rulership of the land we currently inhabit. Which of the 3 keys mentioned can you intentionally work on over the next season of your life? Look for fellow cell members to commit to this with you.