

## Sunday School Lesson for the month of February 2019

### The Church Jesus Is Building

(Matthew 16:18)

**(Sunday, February 3, 2019)**

Toward the end of His Earthly Ministry of seeking to bring the will of God into the hearts and lives of men, Jesus verbalized His desire and His determination to build His church. The word which He uses is the same word which is used for the Congregation and the people of God throughout the Old Testament Scriptures.

Across the centuries, the Divine Carpenter has continued to build, rebuild, remodel, and update His church.

On the day of Pentecost, He came in the person of the Holy Spirit to administer and to Superintend the continuing work of His church. It is through His church that He accomplishes the redemptive work of God in the world.

Our Lord continues in this present day to build His church. He seeks not only to enlarge His church, but also to improve the quality of His church.

Jesus did not think of His church as a building in the sense of it being a physical structure at a particular place located at a certain street address, but, Jesus thought of His church as a body of born again baptized believers.

The coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost was the divine way of identifying them and authenticating them as the church which Jesus was building and through which He would carry His redemptive work in the world.

#### **I. Jesus builds His church through the evangelistic activity of His disciples.**

The Great Commission has an all-inclusive and universal application to each of the disciples of Jesus Christ. **(Matthew 28:18-20).**

Christianity is a missionary faith. The very nature of God demands this, for God is love and God is not willing that any should perish. Our Lord's death on the cross was for the whole world. If we are the children of God and share His nature, then we will want to tell the good news to the lost world. Every disciple should be able to go out to win and teach others.

In many respects, we have separated from this pattern. In most churches, the congregation pays the Pastor to preach, win the lost and build up the saved.

The church members function as cheer leaders or spectators. The “converts” are won, baptized, and given the right hand of fellowship, then they join the other spectators. How much faster our churches would grow, and how much stronger and happier our church members would be, if each one were making disciples of other believers. The only way a local church can “be fruitful and multiply” is with a systematic discipleship program.

**(Sunday, February 10, 2019)**

## **II. Jesus builds up His church from within.**

Jesus is not only concerned about the external extension of His Kingdom which could possibly be measured by the increase of churches and the number of believers, but He is also concerned about building His church from within that it may truly become the people of God, the family of God and the household of faith.

In writing about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, Paul urges the disciples in Corinth to *“strive to excel in building up the church.”* **(1 Corinthians 14:12)**

In Paul’s epistle to the Ephesians, he speaks about the gifts of the Holy Spirit which has been bestowed upon the church and these are *“for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles.”* **(Ephesians 4:12-14)**

Christ is not only concerned about external growth but internal growth as well. He works to build up His church within.

**(Sunday, February 17, 2019)**

### **A. Jesus would have His church be a school in Christian Discipleship.**

The early church *“devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”* **(Acts. 2:42)**

Jesus is building His church when we meet together to study His word and to try to follow His good will by putting His teachings into practice in our daily lives.

**B. Jesus would have His church be a fellowship of spiritual brothers and sisters.**

Through the miracle of the New birth, we become the children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

We become brothers and sisters and Paul speaks of the church as “the household of faith.” The fellowship of the early disciples was a source of great enrichment to their spiritual well-being. They were not isolated solitary believers. They were a real family in which love, compassion and unselfishness were the rule of the day.

**(Sunday, February 24, 2019)**

**C. Jesus would have His church be reverent and worshipful..... “and fear came upon every soul.” (Acts 2:43)**

Many congregations suffer greatly from a lack of reverence. We come together as a crowd of people. It is reverence for the presence of Christ that causes a crowd to become a congregation of worshippers.

Christ wants to come to church every time His disciples come together in His Name **(Matthew 18:20)**. We need more of the reverence which filled the heart of Simon Peter when he fell down at Jesus’ knee saying, “*depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.*” **(Luke 5:8)** Peter was characterized by a feeling of unworthiness for close contact with the one whom he perceived to be the Christ.

A recognition of our sinfulness along with a response to the holiness of God would cause us to be more reverent and worshipful when we come together in the Name of our precious Lord.

**D. Jesus is building His church when the members are giving themselves devotedly to prayer (Acts 1:14; 12:5)**

**E. Jesus is building His church when the disciples recognize and respond to the leadership of the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:31; 13:1-3)**

The Holy Spirit is our Divine Teacher, Leader and Helper.