



Part 22: The Bread & the Rock

Word ALIVE



Upon this rock I will build my Church



Background Notes -

PURPOSE: To present Jesus' teachings on his being the Bread of Life, over which he loses many followers; to present his promise to build his Church on Peter, the first to openly profess Jesus' deity.

AUTHOR: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John the Evangelists.

DATE: This part begins during the Passover of probably the year 29.

STYLE: Mark continues to stress Jesus' preference to keep some of his works and part of his identity inconspicuous until a proper hour. The Gospels make no efforts to polish the defects of his disciples – their slowness in understanding simple parables, their quickness to leave Jesus, and their squabbles over which one was greater, leading Jesus to teach them about being childlike.



Opening Quotes -

“You seek me not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.” Jn 6:26

“This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” Jn 6:29

“Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.” Jn 6:53

“Simon Peter answered, ‘To whom else shall we go? You have the words of eternal life’.” Jn 6:68

“You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness to me.” Jn 5:39

“You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.” Mt 16:18

“If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, for whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” Mt 16:24

“There are some standing here who will not see death before they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.” Mt 16:28

“I believe! Help my unbelief.” Mk 19:24

“He that is not against us is for us.” Mk 9:40

“Unless you become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” Mt 18:3

“If two or three of you are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Mt 18:20

the BIG PICTURE		LAW, History, Writings, Prophets		key covenants in our Father's plan	
12 Periods	Plot	Other books related to period		stories in each period	
BC	THE BEGINNINGS	GN 1-11	Ps 8, 104	Creation, Adam & Eve, Cain & Abel, Noah's ark, Tower of Babel	
1850	THE PATRIARCHS	GN 12-50		Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel), Joseph, Melchizedek	
1250	EXODUS FROM EGYPT	EX		Moses, the burning bush, the plagues, passover, exodus	
1200	JOURNEY TO CANAAN	NM, Jos	LV, DT	Sinai desert, 10 commandments, Levites, Law, Joshua	
1100	THE JUDGE CYCLE	Jg	Ruth	12 tribes, Gideon, Samson, Ruth, Samuel	
1030	KINGS & PROPHETS	1 & 2 S	1 Ch, Ps, Prov	Saul, David, Solomon, Jerusalem, the Temple	
1000	THE DIVIDED KINGDOM	1 Kg	2 Ch, Prov	Israel (N), Judah (S), Elijah & Elisha, Isaiah, Assyrian exile	
721 587	BABYLONIAN EXILE	2 Kg	2 Ch, Tob, Hos, Am, Hab, Is, Jer, Lam, Jl, Mic, Zp, Jon, Nah, Ob, Ez, Dan, Bar	Babylonians, "major" prophets, Isaiah (to Israel), Jeremiah (to Jerusalem), Ezekiel (to the Exiles)	
538	THE RESTORATION	Ezr, Neh	Est, Judith, Hag, Zech, Mal, Job, Ecc, Songs	Cyrus, 2nd temple, 2nd Law, "minor" prophets, new writings	
163 63	THE REPURIFICATION	1 Mac	Dn, 2Mac, Sirach, Wisdom	Greeks, Maccabean revolt, Hasmonean Dynasty, Romans, Jewish sects (Pharisees, Saducees, Zealots, Essenes)	
AD	JESUS CHRIST	LK	MT, MK, JN	Incarnation, Good News, New Law, Cross & Resurrection	
33 70	APOSTOLIC CHURCH	Acts	Rm, 1&2Co, Ga, Ep, Phil, Col, 1&2Th, 1&2 Tm, Ti, Phm, Hb, Ja, 1P, 2P, 1,2&3J, Jd, Rv	Pentecost, council, journeys, epistles, Body/Bride of Christ	



The Story of Part 22: The Bread & the Rock



Although Jesus' cousin John told King Herod that it was wrong for him to marry Herodias, his brother's wife, Herod did not hurt John, for he found him intriguing, knowing him to be a righteous man. But one day, lured by Herodias through her daughter Salome, Herod was coaxed into promising her anything, which turned out to be the head of John the Baptist on a plate. John's followers mourned him and followed his cousin Jesus.

Jesus felt compassion for the crowds, like lost sheep without a shepherd. One day his disciples told him to send the crowd away to eat, but Jesus took the few loaves and fish they had and fed the thousands, with several baskets left over! They were amazed. Some of them tried forcing Jesus to become their liberator against Rome, a military messiah. But he wouldn't have it, sent the crowds away, and isolated himself in prayer.

One day he approached his apostles in a boat, walking on the water. Peter called out, "Let me walk to you." Jesus agreed, but Peter began sinking as he walked toward Jesus because of his little faith. When Jesus got into the boat, he ordered the wind to stop. Although it stopped on his command, they still couldn't get over the multiplication of the bread! And when they got to shore, he gave his troublesome discourse on the Bread of Life.

"I am the bread from heaven," he taught them. They asked, "What must we do to do the work of God?" The work of God, he said, was that they believe in him whom God sent. When they then asked for a sign that it was him, he repeated that he was the bread, and for eternal life they had to believe in him and *eat his flesh!* He gave no "here is what the parable means" explanation either. For this was no parable. Needless to say, he lost many disciples that day. "Are you leaving too?" He asked. Peter responded, "Where else can we go? You have the words of eternal life." Jesus told them that as difficult as his teaching was, the Father would show them the truth, for no one comes to him unless the Father draws him.

Jesus then "violated" the Sabbath again by allowing a cripple to pick up his cot and walk home. "The Father is working still, and I am working." Some of the Jews had enough, and sought to kill him for making himself God's equal. "All judgment has been given to the Son of Man," he would say. "The dead will rise at my voice and come out of their tombs." He then clarified what he meant about "wineskins" and the "storehouse" to the Pharisees: "You search the Scriptures and don't even see that they are but a portrait of me." With that, Jesus retreated to the outskirts of Galilee to teach his apostles alone.

When he ran into the Pharisees again they asked why he disregarded their rituals. "Lip service!" He answered. They were adding man-made traditions at the expense of the *true* Law (like neglecting to provide for their own parents with the excuse of having to pay Temple taxes.) He declared null and void the idea of "clean" and "unclean" food, for what defiles a person is not what

goes into the stomach but what comes out of the heart (wicked words, thoughts, and deeds.)

One day a Gentile woman with a sick daughter came to Jesus. He told her that he came for Israel, the children of God, not for the dogs (a strong term used to distinguish them from Israel). "But even dogs eat crumbs off of the children's table," she argued. Jesus was so moved by her faith that he healed her daughter. He continued healing other Gentiles, like a deaf man and a blind man, using his own spit as part of the cure. Though he often cured people with just a word, he also used things like water, his robe, mud, spit – things used in pagan practices! Who could figure him out?

He finally asked what everybody else was asking. "Who do people say that I am?" Some said John, Elijah, Jeremiah, or another prophet, but Simon declared that Jesus was the Christ, Son of the living God. "Blessed are you, Simon, for it was not men who revealed this to you, but the Holy Spirit." Jesus then changed his name to Peter ("Rock"), "and on this rock I build my Church." After this great commissioning, he gave Peter (and later the other apostles) the "power of the keys": anything they bound or loosed on earth would be bound or loosed in heaven. "He who listens to you listens to me." The authority of the Church was not established by men but by a man – Jesus Christ.

Then, as if foreshadowing the scandal that such authority in the hand of humans would bring, Jesus called Peter a "Satan"! When he revealed the painful part of his mission (his death and resurrection), Peter objected, and Jesus reprimanded him for thinking like men instead of like God. Following Jesus would mean picking up one's own cross and following him.

To confirm his Passion, Jesus gave James, Peter, and John a glimpse of himself in glory, appearing with Moses and Elijah. The apostles bowed their head in awe, looked up and saw Christ standing alone. He told them not to tell anyone until he rose from the dead.

One day the apostles complained that others were driving out demons in his name. He told them not to stop them. "If they are not against us, they are for us."

After some more teaching on the futility of this life next to the everlasting joy of heaven, he stressed his concern for every soul, like a shepherd who left 99 sheep to find a single lost one. And although temptations were inevitable, woe to him by whom the temptation comes! It would be better for a person who leads anyone away from the faith to have a millstone tied around their neck and thrown into a lake!

Peter then asked how many times a person should forgive someone (7 times?). Jesus answered, "No! 70 times 7," that is, *indefinitely*, for just as the Father's mercy is unending to those who love him, so are we to be merciful. And with that, he set out for Jerusalem to fulfill the dark part of his mission. 📖



Defending the Faith: The Papacy

“Papal infallibility?! What about the Crusades, the Inquisition, Galileo, scandalous affairs, etc...? The anti-popes should put this absurd teaching to rest. Christ founded his Church on Peter’s confession, not on Peter.”

When God changes someone’s name in the Bible, it is not like when we change our name in our courts. It meant a change of *who the person was*. When Jesus changed Simon’s name to Peter, he was doing two things: asserting that he could do so in the first place (which meant he was God); and asserting that he was establishing on the *person* of Peter a visible Church. But this does not mean that the Church is not also built on Peter’s confession of Jesus as the Messiah. It is a common mistake to think a Bible passage means either this or that, when in fact it can mean both without contradiction. The Church is built on the profession that Jesus is Lord, but it is also a visible community with Peter as Christ’s vicar (Jn 21:15-17). As for the old argument that Peter is called *petros* (Greek masculine), but that the Church is built on *petra* (Greek feminine), the question is moot, since Christ and Peter spoke *Aramaic*, where there is only the neutral name *kepha* for both “Peter” and “rock” (“Cephas” in Jn 1:42).

As for infallibility, people mistake this word for another: impeccability. Christ told his disciples to follow the Mosaic *teachings* of the Pharisees, not their example (Mt 23:2). No matter how corrupt a Pope is (and they have been both shining saints and scandalous sinners), it is the *teaching* of the Church which is guaranteed to be free from error *in regards to matters of faith*. This does not include matters of science (Galileo), or directives (the Crusades, the Inquisition, etc.). But when a Pope speaks *ex cathedra* (in his capacity as Peter’s successor), the faithful can rely on the teaching by virtue of Christ’s promise (Mt 16:18).

The question then becomes, how do we know that Christ intended a *succession* of bishops? First we see it in the Bible (Acts 1:15-26, 5:1-5 1 Tim 3:1, Eph 2:20), and second, we see it in history. Notice that Jesus’ words to Peter about the keys sound strikingly similar to the words of Isaiah to King Hezekiah (Is 22:22). The keys are a symbol of authority passed from one holder of the office to the next, and we see this power (also called “binding and loosing”) given primarily to Peter and then to the other apostles. Common sense also tells us that Jesus did not build a Church intended only for the apostles and their generation!

In the early history of the Church, in fact, Bishop Irenaeus defended the Church against Gnosticism (which claimed to have the real, secret teachings of Christ) by asking the simple question: if you are the real Church of Christ, the Christ whose own apostles were commissioned to carry out his teachings, where are your bishops who succeeded the twelve apostles?

Finally, the confusing period of anti-popes which followed the move of the papacy to France and then back to Rome did not invalidate the office of the papacy, but was a bitter reminder that people needed one visible vicar of Christ in the middle of the world. When the confusion ended, the people asserted their loyalty to the papacy, not to conciliarism (a council as the highest authority), faithful to the office instituted by Christ. Jesus is the rock of our salvation, a symbol Jesus himself used to name Peter, not as his replacement, but as his representative.



Expressing the Faith: Look Beyond

Written by Darryl Ducote. Jesus loses many followers when he reveals himself as the Bread of Life. The faithful, starting with Peter, trust in the Lord, no matter how difficult his teaching.

***Look beyond the bread you eat;
See your Savior and your Lord.
Look beyond the cup you drink;
See his life poured out as blood.***

*Give us a sign that we might believe in you.
Moses gave us manna from the sky.*

*I am the bread which from the heavens came;
Those who eat this bread will never die.*

*The bread I give you will be my very flesh;
My blood will truly be your drink.*

*This man speaks harshly; who can listen to his word?
We shall no longer follow him.*

*You, my disciples, will you also leave?
Lord, to whom can we go?*

↗ **Next time: “Who’s Your Neighbor?”** ↖