

**Title:** Unstoppable

**Text:** Matthew 16:13-19

**Target:** The CHURCH of Jesus Christ will never be STOPPED

- I. **The Location that Confronts Us:** *"Caesarea Philippi"* (Vs. 13)
  - A. **The Epicenter of Paganism:** Temples built unto Zeus, Emperor Caesar (called the son of God)
    1. Convergence of political power, religious pluralism, and emperor worship
    2. This location was dedicated to the god of Pan: half goat/half man. (god of the caves, wilderness, and shepherds)
    3. Origination of the word "Panic" (Confusion/Fear)
  - B. **The Intentionality of Jesus:** Lead the disciples to the actual location where people believed the underworld of hell was located
- II. **The Question that Defines Us:** *"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"* (Vs. 13b)
  - A. **What People Say (Opinion):** (Vs. 14)
    1. **John the Baptist:** He was admired by the people and confronted religious leaders
    2. **Elijah:** *"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes."* (Malachi 4:5)
    3. **Jeremiah/one of the Prophets:** Weeping and Rejected prophet
  - B. **What You Say (Confession):** *"But who do **you** say that **I am**?"* (Vs. 15)
    1. **Response:** *"You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."* (Vs. 16)
    2. **Revelation:** *"For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven."* (Vs. 17)
- III. **The Promise that Sustains Us:** *"on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* (Vs. 18)
  - A. **The Bedrock:**
    1. **Peter:** Petros-little pebble
    2. **Petra:** Foundation Rock, Cornerstone
  - B. **The Builder:** *"Build"* means to *"Establish"*
  - C. **The Body:** *"Church-Ekklesia"*
    1. Called out ones
    2. Elected Officials at the city gates who made decisions, established, and enforced laws for the greater good of the people
  - D. **The Boldness:** *"the gates (authorities, principalities, forces) of hell shall not prevail"* (Vs. 18)
    1. **Satan can't stop the Church**
    2. **Governments can't stop the Church**
    3. **Cultural ideologies can't stop the Church**
    4. **Cancel Culture can't stop the Church**
- IV. **The Authority that Invites Us:** *"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."* (Vs. 19)
  - A. **We Hold the Keys:** Our weapon is the Keys (Delegated Authority)
  - B. **We Bind:** To be declared PROHIBITED!
  - C. **We Loose:** To be declared PERMITTED!

**Takeaway:** What Christ Builds Hell Cannot Break