

“Satan” Told Jesus How to Build the Church

By: Dan Jenkins

The apostles knew that Jesus had to be the Messiah because they had seen and heard what He had said and done. Yet, they had a wrong view about the coming King and His kingdom. They were preaching that the kingdom was coming but had no comprehension of its nature.

This is so vividly seen in the event found in Matthew chapter sixteen. Jesus and His disciples were in northern Galilee when the Lord asked them to tell Him who people thought He was.

Some people saw Him as being like Moses, the great lawgiver, who had delivered laws and the commandments of God. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus reminded those who heard Him about what Moses had said about killing, adultery, divorce and oaths. Jesus was delivering new laws and commandments but contrasting what Moses said and then saying, “But I say...”

Some thought He was like Elijah. This prophet was so devoted to truth that he openly rebuked those who rejected what God had said. Jesus also openly rebuked the hypocritical leaders just as Elijah shamelessly rebuked Ahab and Jezebel.

Others thought He was John the Baptist whom Herod had killed because John kept on telling the king that he had no right to take another man’s wife as his own. Jesus spoke just as clearly about the sanctity of marriage. People responded to John’s teaching about baptism and when Jesus began His work, He baptized

more people than John ([John 4:1-2](#)).

Jesus then promised that He would build the church and even the gates of hell could not prevail against this ([Matt. 16:18](#)). These words had to encourage the apostles about what was about to happen. They had been preaching about the coming of the kingdom and Jesus was ready to deliver the keys of the kingdom.

All of this happened just six months before the cross, and for the first time He revealed that the elders, chief priests and scribes were going to kill him. Peter took Jesus aside and rebuked the Son of God, saying, “Lord, this shall not happen to You!”

How did Jesus respond to this? “Get behind Me, Satan...you are an offence to Me...you do not savor the things of God, but of men.” He was saying to Peter that the church, the coming kingdom, did not belong to Peter. Peter was trying to tell Jesus what it should be like. He was far *ahead* of the plan of God. Jesus told him to get *behind* Him and to become a follower. Jesus is the Lord; Peter is the follower.

What a lesson for men today! The church does not belong to men. Too many are far “ahead” of Jesus and what the church should be like. We should follow Him and His plan.

Spiritual Growth: Add Love

By: Selected

Peter concludes this list of Christian graces with the highest and most comprehensive quality: “add...to brotherly kindness love” (2 Pet. 1:7). This is the pinnacle of spiritual growth.

The word used here is *agape*—a love that seeks the highest good of others. It goes beyond affection for fellow Christians and extends to all people, including enemies (Matt. 5:44). It is the fullest expression of Christ-like character.

Scripture places special emphasis on this kind of love. It is greater than faith and hope (1 Cor. 13:13). It is the first component of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22). It is the bond that holds all other virtues together (Col. 3:14).

Agape love is unique. It is not based on emotion or convenience. It is a deliberate choice—a commitment of the will. It is unconditional, not depending on whether others deserve it. It is unselfish, not seeking something in return. It is sacrificial, placing the needs of others above our own. And it is enduring—it “never fails” (1 Cor. 13:8).

This kind of love is essential. Jesus taught that loving others—even enemies—reflects the nature of our heavenly Father (Matt. 5:45). It defines the Christian life. We are to “walk in love” (Eph. 5:2), serve one another through love (Gal. 5:13), and do all things with love (1 Cor. 16:14).

So how do we develop this love? First, by looking to God. He demonstrated His love by giving His Son for sinners (Rom. 5:8). His love is the model and the motivation for ours.

Second, by following the example of Jesus. He showed the greatest love by laying down His life (John 15:13). His life becomes the standard for how we treat others.

Third, by practicing the qualities described in 1 Corinthians 13. Love is patient, kind, humble, forgiving and enduring. These are not abstract ideas—they are daily choices we must make in our interactions with others.

Finally, love must be demonstrated. Our love for God is shown by keeping His commandments (John 14:15). Our love for others is shown through action—helping those in need and living “in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:16-18).

This is where spiritual growth leads. Faith begins the process. Each quality builds upon the last. But love brings it all together. If we truly grow as God intends, our lives will be marked by this kind of love—a love that reflects the heart of God and reaches the lives of others.

The growth described in 2 Peter 1:5-7 is essential and it never reaches an end. What needs your attention today?



Upcoming Events

Sunday, July 5th: Monthly potluck luncheon with a 12:45pm afternoon service.

Friday, July 10: Baby shower for Naomi Walkine at the FitzSimmon's home at 6pm.

Sunday, July 12th: Monthly youth devo after evening services.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Helen Cannady and Jeff Cannady on the passing of our dear brother Willie Cannady. Visitation will be 9am Friday, July 3rd and services will begin at 10am after the visitation.

Jeff and Kelly Cannady's daughter, Ashly Price, who is on a medical mission trip in Kenya.

Robert Ontiveros, a co-worker of Veronica Serenil, who will be having double bypass surgery.

Service Roster

Week of June 28, 2026

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Ferman Rosales
Song Leader..... Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Lupe Escojido
Closing Prayer..... James Cammock

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Kevin Sheeran
Cup..... Randy D'Herde
Offering..... Genesis Williams
Assist..... Caleb Lehtinen
Assist..... Blake Jacobs
Assist..... Clifton Rutherford

Sunday Evening

Song Leader..... Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer..... Kevin Sheeran
Closing Prayer..... Mark FitzSimmons

Lord's Supper & Offering.....Lupe Escojido/
Willie Fossati

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class.....Bryant Siegel
Song Leader.....Kirk FitzSimmons
Devotional.....Bryant Siegel

Other

Prepare Communion for June.....Rosales

Congregational News This Week

Anniversaries

Rick & Rieke Bass.....June 27

Summer Series Wednesday Night Classes

Every Wednesday night during the Summer session, the Adults will be learning about "Questions Jesus Asked" and the Children will be learning about "Biomimicry: God invented it First". Please join us at 7pm.

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men’s Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

For I consider that the sufferings of this present
time are not worthy to be compared with the glo-
ry which shall be revealed in us.
Romans 8:18 NKJV

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of June 21, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....66
A.M. Worship.....110
P.M. Worship.....68
Wednesday Worship.....66

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

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