

TAKE OWNERSHIP | 1-31-16

REFLECT & DISCUSS

When was the last time you rented something? What was it? What were you doing with it? Since it wasn't yours, did you feel compelled to take care of it while you had it? Why/why not? What was the last valuable thing you bought? How well do you take care of it? Ownership changes everything. When we don't own something, we aren't compelled to take care of it, but when we take ownership, we take personal responsibility for its care. The same principles are true when we take ownership of the Church.

READ: *Matthew 16:13-16*

Jesus asked His disciples what the word on the street was about Him. There were many opinions about Jesus in His day and there are many opinions about Him now. In your circle of friends and family, who do they say Jesus is? What influences the way people view Jesus? Why does Jesus ask His disciples who they think He is? How is He getting them to take ownership of their faith in Him? Peter's ownership of His faith in Jesus starts with a confession of Christ as Messiah. When did you fully surrender your life to Christ? Who is Jesus to you?

READ: *Matthew 16:17-18*

In this moment, Jesus gives Simon a new identity. Jesus renames him Peter (which means rock). Do you think Peter thought of himself as a rock before this? Why/why not? What do you think Peter is thinking in this moment? Does he feel a lot of pressure? Excitement? Empowerment? Just like Jesus used Peter to build His church, He wants to use you and me to build His church. How does that sit with you? The church is Jesus' plan to rescue and restore. You are the church. How can we take ownership to rescue and restore?

READ: *Matthew 16:19*

Keys signify ownership. When you have the keys to a car or a house, you own it. You have the rights to it and authority over it. What Jesus says in this verse is significant because He is trusting us with the ownership and authority of His Church. Do we realize the power and influence we have as Christians? How much more impact could we have if we realized our potential? What does it mean to be an owner of Living Water? Why is ownership important? Are there any parts of the ownership that are hard to commit to? Why?

CHALLENGE

When we take ownership, we take personal responsibility. Christ is calling you to take personal responsibility for rescuing and restoring others in His church. Will you accept His challenge?

PRAYER

Jesus, I am humbled that you want to use me to build Your Church. Empower me to take ownership of this great responsibility. As I walk with You, teach me how to rescue and restore others with Your power.