

The Plan of Jesus – The Church

A. Jesus Picked Out Some Special Assistants

1. Jesus had a number of “Disciples.” The word “disciple” means a l_____.
2. Jesus picked out 12 of them to be His “Apostles.” The word “apostle” means a “s_____ o_____.”
3. Why did Jesus appoint these 12 Apostles? (Mark 3:14)
 - a. So they could be _____
 - b. So He could send them out to _____
4. What did He give them authority to do? (Mark 3:15) _____

B. Are There Still Apostles Today?

1. How many Apostles did Jesus appoint? (Mark 3:14-16) _____
2. Throughout eternity, how many Apostles will there be in New Jerusalem? (Rev. 21:14) _____
3. There are some churches that think their leaders today have the same authority as the 12 Apostles. They call them Apostles or Bishops or Cardinals or Popes. But that is not true. Only the 12 Apostles had authority from Jesus. They had to be hand-picked by Jesus. Once the 12 Apostles were gone, [there has been no one who has their authority.](#)

C. Jesus’ Plan for the Future

1. What question did Jesus ask His disciples? (Matthew 16:13) _____

2. They answered, “Some say you are J_____ the B_____; others E_____; still others, you are J_____ or one of the prophets.” (Matt. 16:14).
3. Then Jesus asked them, “Who do you say I am?” (Matt. 16:15). Simon Peter answered, “You are the M_____, the S_____ of the living G_____.” (Matt. 16:16)
4. Jesus told Simon he was blessed. His Father in heaven had revealed that to Simon Peter. (Matt. 16:17).

5. Then he said, “I tell you that you are Peter (*Petros*, [4074](#)) (rock or stone), and on this rock (*petra*, [4073](#)) (rock, cliff, or ledge) I will build My Church (*ekklesia*, [1577](#)) (group of people who are “called out”).
 - a. Jesus never said He would build His church on Peter.
 - b. He said He would build His church on “this *petra*.” What did Jesus mean? Two things:
 - 1) He would build His church on the s_____ Peter had just made.
 - 2) He would build His church on H_____. Four times in the NT, Jesus is referred to as a “rock” (*petra*, [4073](#)): Romans 9:33; 1 Cor. 10:4 (twice); 1 Peter 2:8

D. When Did Jesus Begin Building His Church?

1. It had not started yet in Matthew 16:18, because Jesus said, “I will build My Church.” The words, “I will build” are in the f_____ tense. So He hadn’t built it yet.
2. After His resurrection, Jesus gathered His Apostles together. He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the promised Holy Spirit (Acts 1:1-5).
3. He said, John baptized with w_____. But you will be baptized with the H_____ S_____ in a few days (Acts 1:5).
4. Then Jesus gave the Apostles (and us Christians today, I believe) our “Marching Orders.” (Acts 1:8) “But you will receive _____ when the H_____ S_____ comes on you; and you will be my w_____ in J_____ and in all J_____ and S_____, and to the _____ of the _____.” We are to r_____ people for Jesus’ Kingdom!
5. Matthew records it this way (Matt. 28:18-20): “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All a_____ in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore _____ and make _____ of all n_____, b_____ them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to _____ everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you a_____, to the very _____ of the age.’”
6. On the day of P_____, they were all together in one place. Suddenly, a sound like the blowing of a violent _____ came from heaven and filled the whole house. What looked like tongues of f_____ came to rest on each of them. They were all filled with the H_____ S_____ and began to speak in other t_____ (meaning languages) as the Spirit enabled them (Acts 2:1-4). Jesus had begun His C_____!