

" Ekklesia – The Church of Christ's Design "

Portions of this message were inspired during personal prayer and study time primarily in the Book of Revelation. Additional study sources for this series include: *The Revelation* by John F. Walvoord; *The Revelation Record* by Henry M. Morris; *E Quake* by Jack Hayford; *Keys to Revelation* study notes by Jack Hayford; *The New International Bible Commentary*, edited by F. F. Bruce; *The NIV Study Bible*, 1985 by The Zondervan Corporation; *Thru the Bible* by J. Vernon McGee; *Provision of History* by Elizabeth Williams; *Seeing Things John's Way* by David A. deSilva; *The Book of Revelation (Revised)*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament by Robert H. Mounce; *Revelation Expounded* by Finis Jennings Dake; *The Book of Revelation* by Clarence Larkin; *Systematic Theology (Revised Edition)* edited by Stanley M. Horton; *Bible Doctrines: A Pentecostal Perspective* by William W. Menzies and Stanley M. Horton; *Faith Lessons on the Early Church: Conquering the Gates of Hell* by Ray Vander Laan; *Revelation: Four Views*, edited by Steve Gregg; *The Ultimate Victory* by Stanley M. Horton; *A Study on Revelation* by Boyce A. Teas (unpublished); *The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia*, William M. Ramsay; LearnTheBible.org; JewishEncyclopedia.com; AllAboutArchaeology.org; BiblePlaces.com; Sacred-Destinations.com; GodsCare.net; BenedictSeraphim.WordPress.com; Guide-Martine.com; Bible-History.com; HolyLandPhotos.org; Britannica.com; PadField.com;
Pastor Ed recommends these and other resources to you. He invites you to contact him at info@EastonWorshipCenter.org to join in our online discussions.

August 22, 2010
Easton Worship Center

Jesus the Rabbi

- 1 – Jesus chose his followers – so they could become *talmidim*.
- 2 – Jesus came to teach his followers to fulfill the Word of God.
- 3 – Jesus used unique teaching methods.
- 4 – Jesus the Rabbi came to establish a community [*ekklesia*] of followers.
- 5 – Jesus taught about life-changing faith-in-action.

Talmid / Talmidim
*Knowledge, action,
and character of the
Rabbi*

Ekklesia
*"the assembly of
those who have been
called out"*

Matthew 16 NIV

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Who do YOU say that Jesus is?

Matthew 16 NIV

16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.

18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build my church [ekklesia], and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.**

Mark 8 NIV

34 Then he **called the crowd** to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.

1 John 2:15-17; 1 Peter 4:3-4

Mark 8 NIV

36 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?

37 Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

38 **If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him** when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Philippians 2:10-11

For prayerful reflection:

- Take a minute to list what you find to be the most difficult places or situations to openly be a *talmid* of Jesus.

- What makes it difficult to share your faith in these places and situations?

- In what specific ways did Jesus prepare his *talmidim* for their roles in the *ekklesia*, his Church? How can he prepare you for your roles in his *ekklesia*?

- Why was it so important for the disciples to verbally affirm who Jesus is?

Life Scriptures for this week

Mon, Aug 23	Matthew 16.13-20
Tue, Aug 24	Mark 8.34 – 9.1
Wed, Aug 25	Luke 9.18-27
Thu, Aug 26	1 John 2.15-17
Fri, Aug 27	1 Peter 4.3-4
Sat, Aug 28	2 Corinthians 10.3-5
Sun, Aug 29	Philippians 2.10-11

If you are not already on our LifeScriptures email distro list, pls contact us at info@EastonWorshipCenter.org and we be pleased to add you!