

A Place Called Influence

"When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴They 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?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Matt. 16:13-19 (NIV)

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matt. 28:18-20 (NIV)

Two non-negotiables for a church of **influence**

1. Jesus is building His church! The church of Jesus will **prevail!** (Ref: Matt.16:18)
2. We have a **mission!** (The Great Commission) (Ref: Matt. 28:19)

Two defining words to this church

1. "**I will send you all that you will care for**"
2. "One church, many locations, all generations"

Small Group Questions

1. In coming to North Way did you find the openness with which we talked about Jesus to be disconcerting, helpful, challenging, or wonderful? Why?
2. When it comes to our mission, do you feel that the whole church is fully engaged? Why or why not?
3. What would it take for the people on the "sidelines" to become involved in what God has called us to do? Why is this essential in the times that we are in?
4. We believe the strategies given us by the Spirit are specifically for us in this time. Do you feel you understand what it will take for these strategies to be fulfilled? What is your role in seeing that happen?
5. If there's one contribution you could make to advance the Kingdom through the local church, which is the hope of the world, what would it be? What's holding you back?