

## Lesson 2 - The Origin of the Church - Outline

### Read Matthew 16:13-20

#### I The first church was organized out of the material prepared by John the Baptist.

- A. John the Baptist received his authority to baptize from heaven.
- B. Jesus and all the apostles were baptized including the successor to Judas Iscariot by John the Baptist.
- C. Jesus took this material prepared by John the Baptist and organized the first church.

#### II The church was in existence during the early sojourn of Jesus.

- A. Christ said "...I will build my church
- B. The authority of discipline was placed in the church during Christ's personal ministry.
- C. Christ sang God's praise
- D. The church had a treasurer
- E. The Great Commission

#### III The church, therefore, was established in the days of Jesus.

#### IV "...and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

#### V Identifying the New Testament church today:

- A. There are 1,600+ denominations / secs in existence today.
- B. The Lord has only ONE church.
- C. How are we to know which is the correct church Christ established?
  1. Historical perpetuity
    - a. What can reliable historians trace?
    - b. Beginning of some other denominations
      - (i) The Catholic church
      - (ii) The Lutheran church
      - (iii) The Episcopalian church
      - (iv) The Presbyterian church
      - (v) The Congregational church
      - (vi) The Methodist church
      - (vii) The Church of Christ
  2. Doctrinal conformity
  3. Spiritual affinity

#### Questions:

- Where did John the Baptist get his authority to baptize.
- Who were the members of the church that Jesus established?
- Give proof the church was in existence during Christ's lifetime.

- What's meant by: historical perpetuity, doctrinal conformity, and spiritual affinity?

Discussion: Today - why so many different kinds of churches?

#### Assignments:

- Memory scripture: Matthew 15:15-16
- Assignment: Be prepared to give a definition of "democracy."

## Lesson 2- The Origin of the Church

### Read Matthew 16:13-20

*<sup>13</sup>When Jesus came into the coasts of Cæsarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? <sup>14</sup>And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. <sup>15</sup>He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?*

*<sup>16</sup>And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*

*<sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

*<sup>20</sup>Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.*

### I The first church was organized out of the material prepared by John the Baptist.

- A. John the Baptist received his authority to baptize from heaven. Read Matthew 21:25 (from verse 18-32. First part is about The Barren Fig Tree).

*<sup>18</sup>Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. <sup>19</sup>And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, **Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever.** And presently the fig tree withered away. <sup>20</sup>And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! <sup>21</sup>Jesus answered and said unto them, **Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.** <sup>22</sup>And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*

*23And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? 24And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. 25The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? 26But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. 27And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.*

*28 But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. 29He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. 30And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. 31Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you [because they repented and obeyed like the 1<sup>st</sup> son]. 32For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.*

- B. Jesus and all the apostles were baptized including the successor to Judas Iscariot by John the Baptist. [The apostles were choosing Matthias to replace Judas.]

Read Acts 1:21-22 *21Wherefore [for what reason] of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.*

**[some background via NIV starting with verse 12]** *12Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. 13When they arrived; they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of*

*Jesus, and with his brothers. <sup>15</sup>In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) <sup>16</sup>and said, “Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup>He was one of our number and shared in our ministry.”<sup>18</sup>(With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. <sup>19</sup>Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)*

*<sup>20</sup>“For, said Peter, “it is written in the Book of Psalms: let there be no one to dwell in it,”*

*(this is from Psalm 69:25)*

*‘May his place be deserted; **let there be no one to dwell in it,***

*and, “May another take his place of leadership.”*

*[this is from Psalm 109:8 – King David speaking about enemies (Judas) who deceived and betrayed - <sup>8</sup>May his days be few; **may another take his place of leadership.***

*<sup>21</sup>Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from John’s baptism [of us] to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”*

- C. Jesus took this material prepared by John the Baptist and organized the first church.

## II The church was in existence during the early sojourn of Jesus.

- A. Christ said “...I will build my church;” in Matthew 16:18 meaning during His days of personal ministry on Earth.
- B. The authority of discipline was placed in the church during Christ’s personal ministry. Read Matthew 18:15-18 *<sup>15</sup> Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. <sup>16</sup>But if he will not hear thee, then*

*take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. <sup>17</sup>And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. <sup>18</sup>Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

C. Christ sang God's praise in the midst of the church. Read:

1. Hebrews 2:12 <sup>12</sup>saying,  
*I will declare thy name unto my brethren,  
In the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.*

(From Psalm 22:22 <sup>22</sup>I will declare thy name unto my brethren:  
In the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.)

2. Mark 14:26 (after the Passover supper) <sup>26</sup>**And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives. <sup>27</sup>And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered. <sup>28</sup>But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee.**

D. The church had **a treasurer and organization** during Christ's earthly ministry. Read:

1. John 13:29 (from verse 24) <sup>24</sup>Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake. <sup>25</sup>He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it? <sup>26</sup>Jesus answered, **He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it.** And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. <sup>27</sup>And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, **That thou doest, do quickly.** <sup>28</sup>Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him. <sup>29</sup>For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, **Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor.**
2. Acts 1:15-26 <sup>15</sup>And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

*<sup>16</sup>Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. <sup>17</sup>For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. <sup>18</sup>Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. <sup>19</sup>And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.*

*<sup>20</sup>For it is written in the book of Psalms,*

*Let his habitation be desolate,  
And let no man dwell therein:*

**Psalms 69:25**

*<sup>25</sup>Let their habitation be desolate;  
And let none dwell in their tents.*

*and*

*His bishoprick [position as an apostle - the office or rank of a bishop] let another take.*

*<sup>21</sup>Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. <sup>23</sup>And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, <sup>25</sup>that he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. <sup>26</sup>And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.*

- E. The Great Commission was given to the church during Christ's stay on the earth. Read Matthew 28:16-20 *<sup>16</sup>Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. <sup>19</sup>Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all***

*things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

III The church, therefore, was established in Jesus' sojourn in the flesh and the work of its construction was begun with the material prepared by John the Baptist, and later the twelve apostles of the Lord. At the close of His earthly ministry, we find the little band in Jerusalem began to transact business by the election of a successor to Judas.

IV **"...and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."**

Matthew 16:18 *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

A. This promise of Christ to the church established the fact churches identified with this first church would be in existence in all ages and would never lose that identity.

B. That church exists today – or the promise of Christ has failed.

V **Identifying the New Testament church today**

A. There are literally hundreds of denominations, religious sects, etc. in existence today. Someone has numbered over 1,600.

- B. The Lord has only ONE church. Read Ephesians 4:4 (verses 1-5)

*<sup>1</sup> I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, <sup>2</sup>with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; <sup>3</sup>endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>**There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.***

- C. How are we to know which of all the many churches is the one that Christ established? There are three (3) things that serve to identify today's New Testament church:

1. Historical perpetuity

- a. Reliable historians can trace the history of today's Baptist church back to Christ. [This will be studied later in this book.]
- b. Beginning of some other denominations
  - (i) The Catholic church has its germinal beginning with Constantine in the 4<sup>th</sup> century.
  - (ii) The Lutheran church was founded by in 1520 by Martin Luther.
  - (iii) The Episcopalian church was founded by Henry the VIII in 1534.
  - (iv) The Presbyterian church was founded by John Calvin in 1536.
  - (v) The Congregational church was founded by Robert Brown in 1580.
  - (vi) The Methodist church was founded by John Wesley in 1740.
  - (vii) The Church of Christ was founded by Alexander Campbell in 1827.



2. Doctrinal conformity – The New Testament church of today will believe the same doctrines as the very first church.
3. Spiritual affinity – True Christians and churches of all ages have been bound together in spiritual ties, through fellowship in a common faith and doctrinal unity.

*Hebrews 11:6 <sup>6</sup> But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

### **Questions:**

- Where did John the Baptist get his authority to baptize?
- Who were the members of the church that Jesus established?
- Give proof the church was in existence during Christ's lifetime.
- What's meant by: historical perpetuity, doctrinal conformity, and spiritual affinity?

**Discussion:** Today - why so many different kinds of churches?

**Memory scripture:** Matthew 15:15-16 (from verse 10 to 20 for context) <sup>10</sup>And he called the multitude, and said unto them, *Hear, and understand: <sup>11</sup>not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.* <sup>12</sup>Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? <sup>13</sup>But he answered and said, *Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.* <sup>14</sup>Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch. <sup>15</sup>Then answered Peter and said unto him, **Declare unto us this parable.** <sup>16</sup>And Jesus said, **Are ye also yet without understanding?** <sup>17</sup>Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? <sup>18</sup>But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. <sup>19</sup>For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: <sup>20</sup>these are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

**Assignment:** Be prepared to give a definition of "democracy."

Democracy - a system of government by the whole population or *all the eligible members* of a state, typically through elected representatives.