

BUILDING FOR ETERNITY IMPACT: **DON'T WASTE ANOTHER MOMENT**

This past December break, I took my family to the Western Cape, and one of the towns we stayed in was George. What stood out to me was how clean the town was – it was quite refreshing to see streets and suburbs so clean. It appeared the city had a functioning municipal government.

A couple of days ago, I read an article about the audit outcome for the municipality of George. For a fifth time in a row, the municipality has had an unqualified audit opinion and for the past 14 years, the same outcome has been seen 13 times of those years.

Under audit standards and protocols, a municipality receives an unqualified audit opinion when there are no material mis-statements in its financial statements, no material deviations in reporting on performance objectives, and full compliance with applicable legislation.

In other words, money was used for its intended purpose, resources were channeled correctly, and wasteful or fruitless expenditures were avoided.

Did you know that the Kingdom of God also operates on accounting terms? You often hear Jesus talking to a master who goes away after giving his servants responsibilities, only to return and ask them to account for what was left in their care.

This is at the heart of the stewardship principle in the kingdom of God. If God were to do an audit on your life today, would you get an unqualified audit outcome, or would you get a qualified outcome, or would you get the worst outcome called a disclaimed audit opinion?

This morning, I want to talk to you on the subject matter **DON'T WASTE ANOTHER MOMENT**. When someone lives below the level of their giftedness, that person will be involved in fruitless and wasteful expenditures.

When you give below your financial capacity, you will be involved in a wasteful activity.

Most of the time we just live on the boarder line and yet God is looking at you to live your life to the full.

- Each one of us here carries treasures that need to be given out, that are needed by those around us.
- As a builder of God's kingdom, you have been given great abilities that you don't even know of.
- In order to build something, you need to know what you possess and what you are bringing to the construction site. This morning, I am here to tell you and show you what God has put into your hands.
- We have been talking about **BUILDING FOR ETERNITY IMPACT PRT 3**, and to build for eternity impact, we must build with the right type of material; material that is good enough for eternity impact.

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- You can't build for eternity impact with worldly material and material that erodes over time.
- Let's go back to the anchor scripture that we have been dealing with since we started this series.

Matthew 16: 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.19 I 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."

- Last week, I spoke about the importance of keeping your confession. We saw that, upon the confession, Jesus promised victory over death.
- Not only did Jesus promise victory over death, but in verse 19, we see another promise. He told Peter, and by extension to the church, that He was going to give him the keys of the kingdom of God.
- The most powerful person in a group of people is the person with the keys to the house, keys to the car, keys to the office, and keys to the pool area.
- Without the keys, you will never have access to certain places. If you try to access areas without a key, you may be mistaken for a thief.
- So Jesus stands before Peter and promises to give him the keys of the kingdom of God.
- What did Jesus mean by "keys of the kingdom of heaven"
- By the kingdom of heaven, Jesus meant the gospel, the good news of salvation.
- The kingdom of God involves repentance and the new birth, as God rules in the hearts of His children in this world in preparation for the next. The work begun on earth will find its consummation in heaven (see Philippians 1:6).
- The Kingdom of God is the reign of God among the affairs of men.
- The keys of the gospel is the ability to open and explain the great truths of the gospel.
- Peter was standing at the precipice of a moment where he was being commissioned to unlock the mysteries of the gospel.
- Peter was the first to use the keys of evangelism when he preached in the upper room after Pentecost, and 3000 men gave their lives to Jesus.
- Every believer is empowered to unlock and to accurately present the gospel to everyone.
- The keys were not exclusive to Peter nor exclusive to the first apostles, but the keys have been given to the church.
- Each time we shy away from presenting the gospel, we are engaged in wasteful and fruitless expenditure.
- Each time we engage in other matters of this world without presenting the gospel, we are being wasteful of kingdom resources.

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- Someone must decide not to waste another moment. When you leave church today, don't waste another moment by engaging only in non-spiritual conversation.
- In my interaction with people, even those who go to church, I am learning that many people are not being accurately taught the gospel of Jesus.
- During the Old Testament times, the gospel was shut up to the Gentiles through the spiritual selection of the Old covenant. Even when Jesus came, He first went to the Jews and later to the Gentiles.
- Peter was being sent out to break that historical issue by presenting the Gospel to the Gentiles.
- In Acts 10, the Lord gave Peter a dream to give him a wake-up call regarding reaching the Gentiles with the gospel.
- Many people have not heard the gospel, not because they are excluded but because someone around them is being wasteful.
- The pharisees who had been given the responsibility to reach many with God's word, struggled with embracing it.
- Now, when you look at the English rendering here, "the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven", you will realize that Jesus was talking about something that will unlock the kingdom of heaven to His people.
- To put it simplistically and contextually, you will realize that the key that Jesus was referring to was the correct positioning of Christ in the presentation of the Gospel.
- In other places, the keys of the kingdom of heaven are referred to as the keys of knowledge. *Luke 11:52 "Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering."*
- The Pharisees and the religious leaders took away Christ from their confession, and by so doing, they disqualified themselves from entering and accessing the kingdom of heaven.
- The key of the Kingdom of heaven is the faithful presentation of the word of Christ, with His identity being central.
- To build for eternity impact, you must build with Christ at the center. When you faithfully proclaim Christ, you will open the kingdom to people.
- Peter correctly confessed Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God.
- Every time we distort or withhold the centrality of Jesus, we close the kingdom to people and to ourselves.
- It is easy to talk about Jesus as one of the prophets, but that is a broken key, and it will not open the kingdom to people.

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- The church must decide not to waste another moment by presenting a Jesus in the manger only. Jesus is not in the manger anymore; Jesus is not on the cross anymore, but He is alive and seated at the right hand of the Father.
- The way you present Jesus determines the level of authority you possess. Keys are seen as an indication of one's authority.
- When we have the keys, we have the authority.
- Present Jesus as the greatest healer you know, present Jesus as the greatest and only savior of people's souls.
- Is your key broken? Is your key capable of opening only one door? I believe the key we received is a master key that can open all the chests found in the kingdom of God.
 - Jesus is the way to peace
 - Jesus is the bread of life and will satisfy your cravings.
 - Jesus is the source of true joy
- When you correctly position Christ, you are able to determine what should happen and what should not happen around you.

Matthew 16: 19 I 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."

- When Peter started presenting the Gospel, he had to do away with the many rituals that were associated with the Old Covenant.
- He was heralding a new covenant that was anchored on the finished works of Calvary.
- Peter and the apostles did away with the need to worship in a specific place to meet God; they had to do away with abstaining from certain foods in order to be rendered clean.
- In other words, as they correctly positioned the new covenant, they were able to bind and loose certain things.'
- The binding and loosing were not about being authoritative but about putting into effect the new covenant.
- Don't waste another moment by being confined to traditions but wisely use your time by walking in the freedoms you have in Christ.
- This binding and loosing were not just about commanding demons to leave, but were about fully accepting the manifestation of Jesus and letting go of religious ways that are devoid of power.