

# Lost Keys

## “Finding Access to The Kingdom of Heaven”

### I. SCRIPTURE

Matthew 16:19 – **“And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven”.**

### II. BACKGROUND

Today’s scripture comes from Matthew 16. We are told that YAHUSHA [Jesus] had just left the Pharisees and Sadducees, who had asked Him for a sign from heaven to prove to them that He was the Messiah (verses 1-4). Then, after He and his disciples had crossed the lake, YAHUSHA [Jesus] tells them (in verse 6) to **“take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees”**. And because the disciples had forgotten to bring some bread with them on this trip, they were discussing what they thought YAHUSHA [Jesus] meant when He said **“take heed and beware of the leaven”**. YAHUSHA [Jesus], **“Aware of their discussion, responds: ‘You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? Do you still not understand? Don’t you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? How is it you don’t understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.’** Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” (Matthew 16:8-12) Afterward, when they had come to their destination of Caesarea Philippi, north of Galilee, YAHUSHA [Jesus] asks His disciples, **“Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”** (Matthew 16:13)

### III. YAHUSHA [Jesus]: THE SON OF YAHUAH [God]

And to YAHUSHA [Jesus]’s question, what others have said, Peter correctly answers: **“You are the HA’MASHIACH [Christ], the Son of the living YAH [God]”**. (Matthew 16:16) And if there were a winner-take-all prize that day for getting the correct answer, then Peter would have been that winner, because...

**“YAHUSAH [Jesus] answered and said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah: for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father Who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are KEPHA [meaning Peter, rock], and on this Rock I will build My called out assembly [church], and the gates of Sheol [Hades] shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’” (Matthew 16:17-19)**

#### **IV. THE ROCK**

It is important that we begin by realizing that this “Rock” (of Matthew 16:18) is YAHUSHA [Jesus] and not Peter, and more importantly it is the *belief*, or the *faith* that He is the long-promised Savior MASHIACH [the Christ], the man YAHUAH [God], also the Son of the Living YAHUAH [God].

And too, it is this specific eternal life-saving gospel message of YAHUSHA [Jesus], in Whom we must believe and accept as YAHUAH [God] Himself, and upon Whom we must 1) fall and be broken (Matthew 21:43) and 2) bear the fruits of His Kingdom (Matthew 21:44)! For if we do not do these two (2) things, then it will be the same YAHUSHA [Jesus], The Chief Cornerstone, Who will grind us into powder (Matthew 21:44), and take **“the kingdom of YAHUAH [God]”** away from us (Matthew 21:43)

Yes, Peter *was* a leading apostle of the early (New Testament) called out assembly [church] of YAHUAH [God] for many years, but he was never its chief cornerstone! For scripture calls YAHUSHA [Jesus] “that Rock”, where the apostle Paul says of the Israelites – the original called out assembly: “and they all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was MASHIACH [Christ]. But with most of them YAHUAH [God] was not well pleased, for their bodies were scatter in the wilderness.” (1 Chronicles 10:4-5). And it is upon this Rock, the Rock YAHUSHA HA’MASHIACH [Jesus Christ] that our faith stands! (Matthew 7:24-25)... and where all other ground (as the famous Edward Mote hymn goes), is “sinking sand”! Yes, as the hymn goes, “on Christ the Solid Rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand”!

And in The Word, it isn’t too much later – just two (2) chapters later – in Matthew 18, that YAHUSHA [Jesus] tells *all* of His disciples – and now not just to Peter: **“assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven”** (verse 18).

And, **“again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven”** (verse 19).

So, it is in the two (2) or three (3) that YAHUSHA [Jesus] is addressing ... so much more than one person – Peter – or the 12. Yes, He is addressing *each* and every one of His faithful disciples, including you and me today. And, you and I can conclude absolutely, that not only was great authority – the **“keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven”** given to Peter, but that great authority has indeed been given to *all* men: *all* of His faithful disciples!... including you and me, after we accept Him as the Son of YAHUAH [God], even YAHUAH [God] ... after we fall upon Him as the Rock... after which we are converted through Him and begin bearing the fruits of His Kingdom... through which we spreading the true Gospel of YAHUSHA [Jesus], as YAHUAH [God], as the Rock upon which the world must also fall, to be called His assembly, His Church.

## V. THE KEY

The Bible uses the key as a symbol of authority. In Isaiah 22:22, we see Eliakim the priest receiving “the key of the house of David...on his shoulder”. So, a trusted servant to the king wore the key to the king’s house on a hook on his shoulder. Therefore, he had the authority to open or close the king’s house. So in ancient times, when one came to seek the king’s help or counsel, the servant’s job was to open the door to the king’s house and assist him in reaching the king. So we, as YAHUSHA [Jesus]’s servants... as His disciples in His ministry... have a similar responsibility to assist those others that YAHUAH [God] is calling in coming to the Rock King, YAHUSHA HA’MASHIACH [Jesus Christ].

So, also in today’s message, YAHUSHA [Jesus] is showing us that the religious teachers of His day, who had access to the knowledge of YAHUAH [God]’s ways, had failed in their duty. At the beginning of Matthew 16, as He later defines as the “leaven” of the church leaders, **“they can discern the face of the sky, but they cannot discern the signs of the times”** (Matthew 16:3) and...

... they will be judged because they **“have taken away the key of knowledge”** for themselves to enter into “the King’s house”, the **“Kingdom of Heaven”**, and that they have also hindered the others who were trying to enter into Salvation to enter into the “kingdom of heaven” well as well (Luke 11:5).

## VI. LOOSED ON EARTH

Even before Peter even had the opportunity to confess that YAHUSHA [Jesus] was “the HA’MASHIACH [Christ], the Son of the living YAH [God]”, YAHUSHA [Jesus] had already publicly confessed it before the [church]:

Do you remember where Luke wrote that He had “returned to Galilee in the power of the RUACH [Spirit]” (Luke 4:14) and that “He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and [that] on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue, as was His custom [and] He stood up to read ... the scroll of the prophet Isaiah...? (Luke 4:16) The part He read in the synagogue that day was the part where Isaiah had prophesied of Him as the coming Messiah, where:

**The RUACH ADONAI YAHUAH [Spirit of the LORD] is on Me,  
because YAHUAH [God] has anointed Me...  
to proclaim the good news to the poor.  
[that] He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.  
To proclaim the acceptable year of YAHUAH [God]...**

(Luke 4:18-19, quoting Isaiah 61:1-2a)

So even before Peter, YAHUSHA [Jesus] had told the called out assembly, the church that He was “the HA’MASHIACH [Christ], the Son of the living YAH [God]” and that His ministry was to preach the “good news” of The Kingdom to the poor, to free the prisoners, to heal the blind, and to set the oppressed free.

And for His confession that He was the promised Messiah [Christ], the church leaders “were filled with anger, and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him over the cliff” (Luke 4:28b-29). And after they tried to kill Him, guess what YAHUSHA [Jesus] does next? He kept on with His same mission: of loosening the bonds of the oppressed.

The very next act of His “loosening of bonds of the oppressed” mission was His casting out of an unclean demon. For scriptures says that after He had “passed through the midst of them (the angry church leaders), He went His way... He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbaths. And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority. And now, in the synagogue, there was a man who had a spirit of an

unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, saying ‘Let us alone! What have we to do with You, YAHUSHA the Netseriy [shoot]. Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of YAHUAH [God]!’ But YAHUSHA [Jesus] rebuked him, saying ‘**Be quiet, and come out of him!**’ and when the demon had thrown him in their midst, it came out of him in their midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him.” (Luke 4:30b-35)

And after that, as He had great authority and power to loose the bonds of the oppressed, He would have His disciples do the same thing:

1. He had His original twelve (12) do the same thing, to “**go, preach, saying ‘The Kingdom of heaven is at hand’ [To] heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, [and] cast out demons...**” (Matthew 10:7-7b-8a).
2. Later, He had His seventy (70) disciples do the same thing, to “**heal the sick there, and say to them ‘The Kingdom of YAHUAH [God] has come near to you’**” (Luke 10:9).
3. And now, we, if we are His true disciples, will begin bearing the fruits of His Kingdom! And we, too, will start spreading the true Gospel that YAHUSHA [Jesus] is no other than YAHUAH [God], the Rock upon which we stand! And that through the provided power of the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit], that we will also “**Go! Preach [this Gospel], saying ‘the Kingdom of heaven is at hand!’**” And we will “**Go! Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, [and] cast out demons...**” (Matthew 10:7-7b-8a). Yes! Just as He did, He tells us to do the same.

As you hear what I am saying to you now, you are probably in disbelief... that as His disciples... that we are supposed to do these things: go, preach, heal the sick, cleanse the diseased, raise the dead, and cast out demons. You probably think that you are not capable of doing these astonishing and wonderful things, but yet I am here today to first say exactly what YAHUSHA [Jesus] said to his original twelve (12): Oh “**you of little faith, why are you [thinking] among yourselves about...**” [what Rich is saying]? For didn’t our Savior promise us “**most assuredly [that] he who believes in [Him], the works that [He] does, [we] will do also; and greater works than these [we] will do, because [He goes] to the Father. And whatever [we] ask in [His] name, that [we] will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. [And] if [we] ask anything in My name, [He] will do it [if we only believe in Him]?**” (John 14:12-14)

Do you claim to be a disciple of YAHUSHA [Jesus]? If you do, then as the Senator from the great State of Louisiana has been known to say, it's time now for you to either "piss or get off the pot"! For at this time of "the End of the Age", you to **"Go [reach, [and] say 'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand'!"** and... you are to **"heal the sick, cleanse the diseased, raise the dead, [and] cast out demons..."**. If you don't do what you are supposed to do, then you should "get off the pot". Yes! Either we do the works that we are commit ourselves to do, as we have been instructed by the Son of YAHUAH [God] to do, through His RUACH [Spirit], or we should step aside and stop wasting time.

## VII. HAVE YOU LOST YOUR KEYS?

(Speak of the miracle of finding Sheena's lost keys)

As today's scripture suggests, if you have the already claimed the "keys to kingdom of heaven", but you do not find yourself capable of binding the strong men (the demons) in your life, i.e. the works of the flesh which include "envy, selfish ambitions, quarreling, causing discord, heated disagreements, outbursts of anger, hatred, jealousy, uncleanness, idolatry, lewdness, fornication, adultery, sorcery, heresies, murder, wild parties and the such" (Galatians 5:19-21), then I will ask you "have you lost your keys to the kingdom?" For as we are told that we will not inherit the kingdom of YAHUAH [God] if we do these things (Galatians 5:21), and if we are still doing them... even the least of them like "quarreling, have heated disagreements or outbursts of anger, having selfish ambitions, or envy" of what others have... then you need to pray for YAHUAH [God]'s guidance to re-find the keys to His kingdom that you have lost.

For if you truly fall on YAHUSHA [Jesus] as The Rock, The Cornerstone, and agree to be bruised by Him in the process... and you will be bruised by Him in the process, then... He will send the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit] to start, or restart a life-long transformation in Him. And this transformation will start by exchanging the works of the flesh, the with these fruits of the kingdom: "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control..." (Galatians 5:22-23a) For as YAHUSHA [Jesus] has said, it is better that we fall on Him as our Rock, the Cornerstone of the called out assembly [Church], than to have Him fall on us and grind us into powder (Matthew 21:44).

## VIII. CLOSING PRAYER

Let's pray to Him today, that He would show us where to find our lost keys, so that we might have access to Him and His Father's kingdom, so that as His disciples we would finally begin *to do* the works of His Kingdom... to go! To preach and tell the world that "the Kingdom is at hand"! To heal the sick! To cleanse the diseased! To raise the dead! And, yes, to even cast out demons...

...all of this and more, in His name.

Amen.

### Credits:

"What are the keys to the Kingdom referred to in Matthew 16:19?" Beyond Today; <https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/bible-questions-and-answers/what-are-the-keys-of-the-kingdom-referred-to-in-matthew-1619>