

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT CHURCH?

*Matthew 16:13-20 *18*



Church (*ekklesia*)

“ek” – out from

“kaleo” - to call

To call out from; a called out assembly

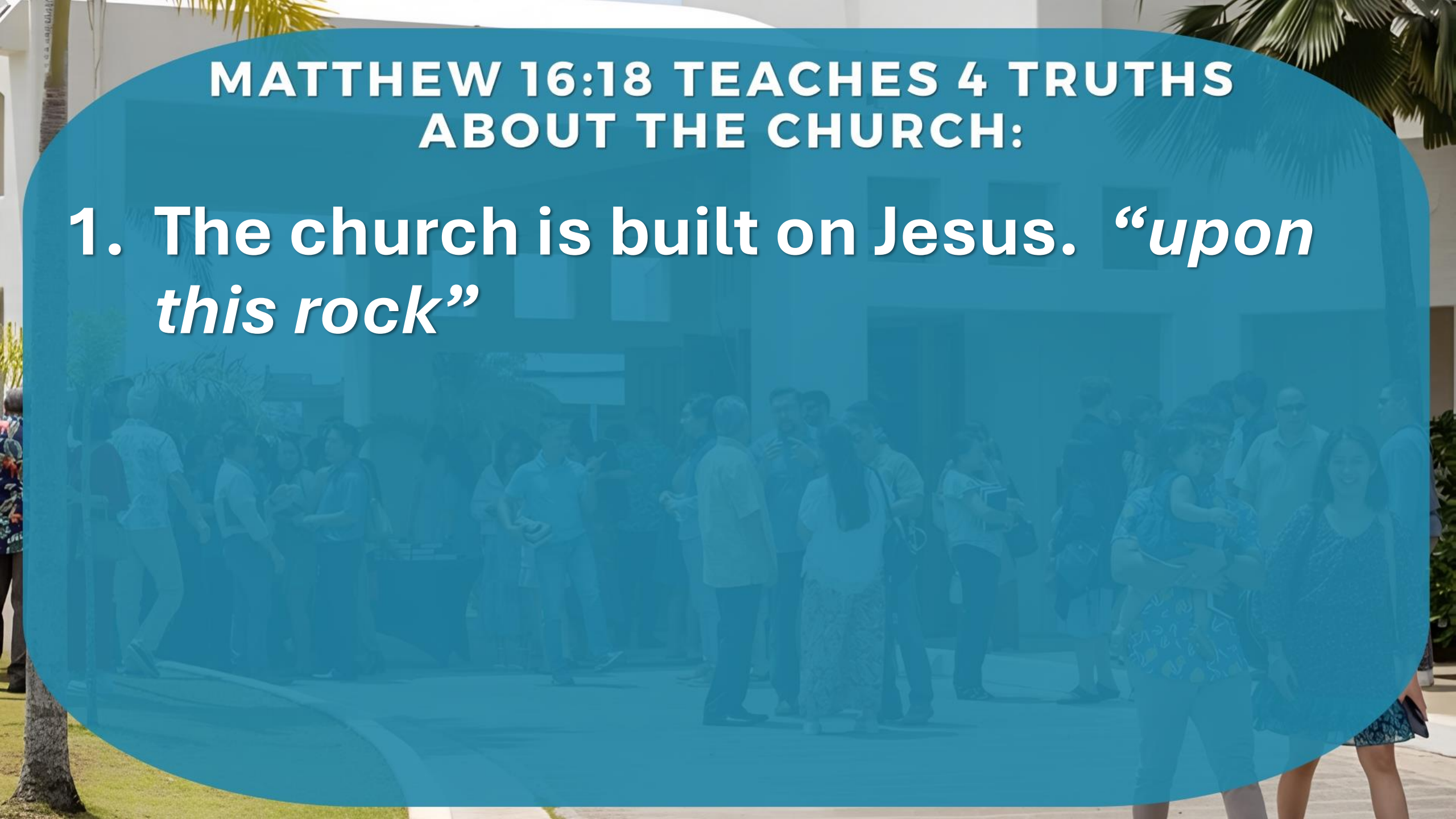
Church (*ekklesia*)

When the Bible talks about church ...

- **Universal church** - *every true believer from the time of Christ's death to the rapture*
- **Local church** - *individual groups of believers in a specific location (i.e. the church at Ephesus)*

MATTHEW 16:18 TEACHES 4 TRUTHS ABOUT THE CHURCH:

1. The church is built on Jesus. “*upon this rock*”



Is Matthew 16:18 teaching that Peter is the first pope?

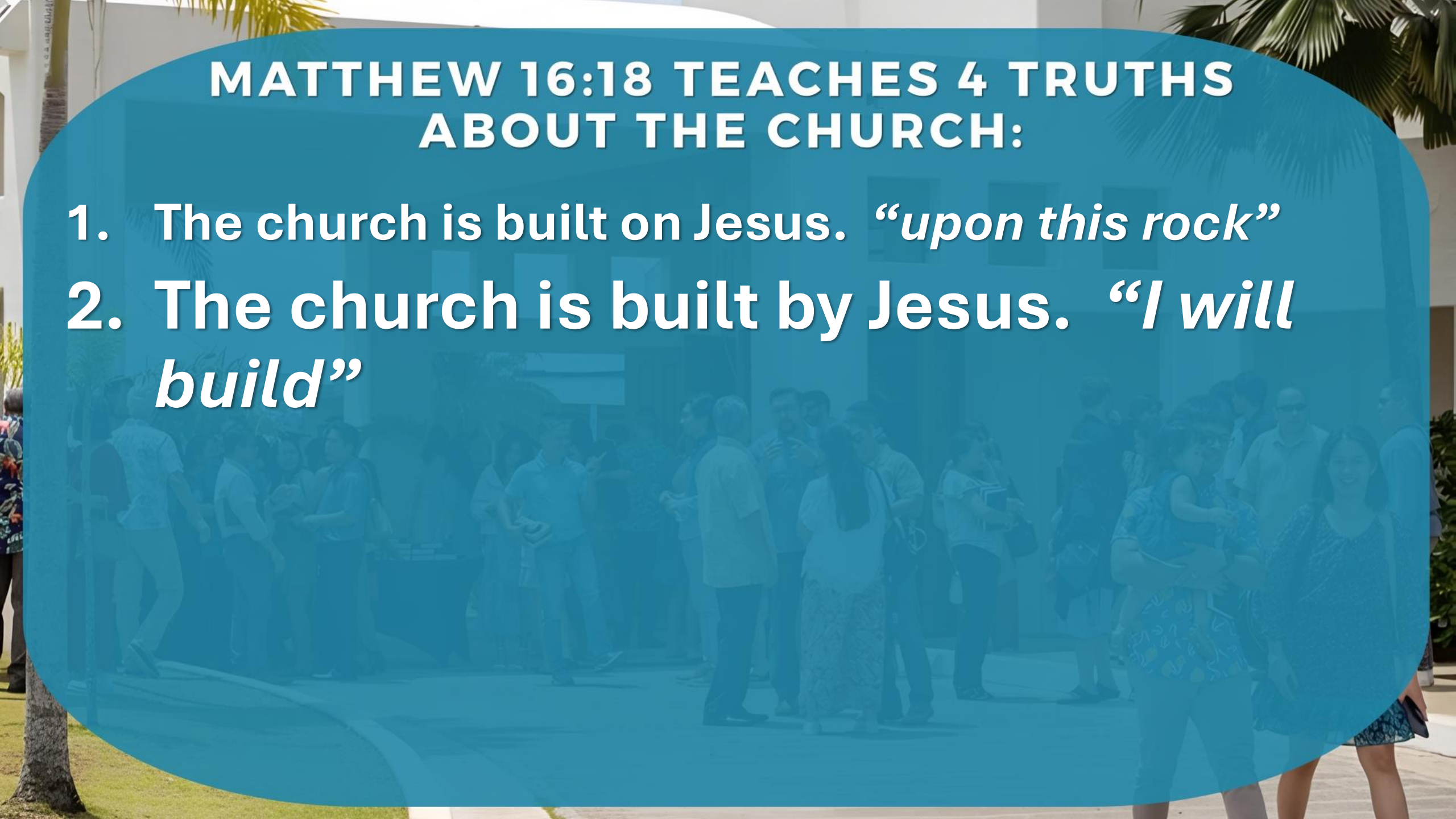
- *Simon > Peter > “petros” - rock, shelf or mass of rock*
- *“this rock” > “petra” > rock or shelf of rock*

Observations:

1. *Peter is rebuked 5 verses later (vs. 23) “Get behind me Satan.”*
2. *Paul later says, “No one can lay any foundation other than Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 3:11).*
3. *Peter later calls Jesus “the chief cornerstone” (1 Peter 2:6-7).*
4. *Peter never calls himself the cornerstone.*

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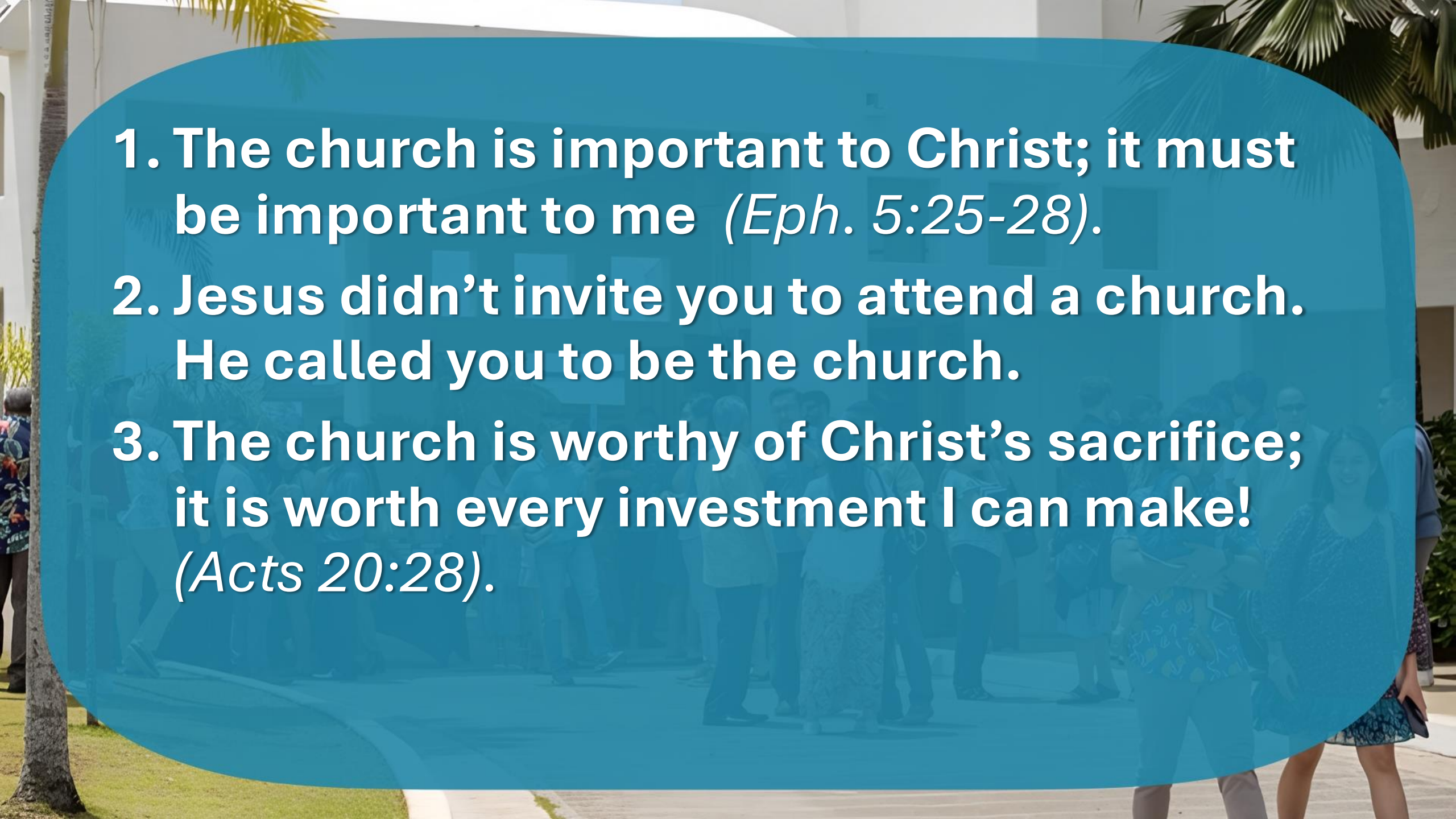
1. The church is built on Jesus. *“upon this rock”*
2. The church is built by Jesus. *“I will build”*
3. The church belongs to Jesus. *“my church”*
4. The church will be triumphant.
*“and the gates of hell will not
prevail against it”*

What does all this mean?

- If Jesus loves His church enough to build it, I should love His church enough to build with Him.
- The church is designed for & completely equipped to fulfill the greatest mission ever given to man.



*Make disciples
of every nation*

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- A group of people, including men, women, and children, are walking along a paved path outdoors. The scene is partially obscured by a large, semi-transparent blue rounded rectangle that serves as a background for the text. The background shows a sunny day with palm trees and a white building in the distance.
1. The church is important to Christ; it must be important to me (*Eph. 5:25-28*).
 2. Jesus didn't invite you to attend a church. He called you to be the church.
 3. The church is worthy of Christ's sacrifice; it is worth every investment I can make! (*Acts 20:28*).

4. The mission is not done because there are so many people here on our island and in the Micronesian islands who are wandering in spiritual confusion, broken by their sin choices, and overwhelmed by the distractions of the world. They need to hear about the message of Jesus that He loves them; He wants to forgive them and give them a fresh start – a new life and a purpose to live. This is what the church does. This is what the church is.



**Making room isn't a logistics decision.
*It's a love decision.***

**What would it look like for you to
take one more step of faithfulness
toward God and His church?**

What would it look like for you to take one more step of faithfulness toward God and His church?

Baptism Jones Beach – Aug. 16

(Pastor Jared)

Membership Foundations Class – Aug. 9

(8:45a.m.)

Serve Ministry Fair - Aug. 9 (6pm)

Connect Community Groups – Aug. 30

(Pastor Jake)