**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr July 24, 2022**

**Maintaining Our Focus**

Matthew 16:13-20

**Key Truth:** The question of Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the most important question any of us will answer in life, and it is the foundational truth that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ His church.

**Keys To Maintaining Our Focus**:

1. Never compromise on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.

 A. We must be clear in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the personhood of Jesus.

 B. We must move \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the culture’s understanding of

 Jesus.

2. Recognize the church is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

 A. Jesus sets the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for His church.

 B. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Kingdom Agenda \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in our

 community.

3. Recommitment to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the church.

 A. The church acts as an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the Kingdom of

 Heaven.

 B. We invade the culture with gospel of Jesus Christ.

 2 Corinthians 5:16-20

 1. We must regain our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ posture rather than our

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ posture.

 2. Our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ enemy is the gates of hell.

**What Is Your Individual Responsibility**:

1. Don’t operate in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the other believers.

2. Maintain your spiritual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Renew your commitment to being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and making

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Matthew 28:18-20

**Taking It Beyond The Walls**: Praise God for sending Jesus to be our Messiah and for establishing the church. Recommit to living as Kingdom Citizens here on earth.

**Food For Thought**

What are some of the different ways you have heard Jesus described by non-Christians, either people you know or references you have heard in pop culture?

Why do you think people vary so widely on who they understand Jesus to be?

What do you consider to be the most important thing to believe about Jesus?

Read Matthew 16:13-14: Jesus refers to Himself as the “Son of Man.” What does this title infer about Jesus’ character and mission?

How can reaffirming Christ as the foundation of the church help us be more effective in reaching others with the gospel?

What forces at work in our society seem to threaten the church? How does it feel to know that nothing can overpower it? How does it impact our work in proclaiming the gospel through it?

If you are a Christian, then what was the most significant factor that led you to confess Jesus as the Christ?

How can the reality that God’s church is unstoppable because of its foundation impact your life today? Tomorrow?

What are some specific ways you can engage those around you with the truth of the gospel?