
Heavenly Boundaries
The Laws of Binding and Loosing
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Overview

As we talk about the spiritual realm and the laws that govern it, the laws of binding and loosing cannot be overlooked. Jesus talked about binding and loosing in two passages of scripture: Matthew 16:19 and Matthew 18:18. Jesus first gave this authority to Peter, but then to the other disciples.

BINDING AND LOOSING — a phrase describing the authority and power that Jesus assigned to His disciples, allowing them to forbid or allow certain kinds of conduct.

This authority and law was given and explained so that the disciples understood how to deal with church on both the physical and spiritual levels. As followers of Christ (disciples), you have been given the authority to bind and loose.

Key Verse Matthew 16:19

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.

There are 2 key points in this one simple passage of scripture:

- (1) As a Christian, you have been given the keys to heaven.**

What does this mean I have the keys to the heavens?

The Greek word used is kleis –

It is a metaphor, which indicates that Christ has given his power and authority.

Let's look at the passages of Scripture prior to Christ giving the keys of the kingdom of heaven to Peter to fully understand this concept.

Context prior to Matthew 16:19

Matthew 16:13-17 (NIV)

Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" 14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

Jesus The Son of The Living God

This is an important text that precedes the concept of binding and loosing

Peter acknowledged that Jesus is the Son of God in verse 16. When we acknowledge and accept that Christ is the Messiah, our Lord and Savior, the Son of God, then we become heirs to the Kingdom of God. With such inheritance, comes the authority and power, or the keys to the heavens.

(2) Christ Himself is the key to heaven

Matthew 16:18

New International Version (NIV)

18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

This power was not just given to Peter, but to Christ's church!

Peter Means Rock

First, in the Greek language, the word for Peter is "**Petros**" which means "a rock".

Jesus then says "on this rock", but uses the Greek word "**Petras**" here, which means in Greek "a large rock, cliff, or ledge".

Jesus used this same word in **Matthew 7:25** when he said,

"The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock"

Jesus was clearly stating that the church would be built on the foundational truth that He is the Messiah. Therefore, the authority, or the keys to heaven, are given to the church.

(3) Christ has given me power and authority.

What Is Binding and Loosing?**Binding and Loosing Definition**

The expressions "bind" and "loose" were common to Jewish legal phraseology meaning to declare something forbidden or to declare it allowed.

(4) Bind means to tie or fasten.

Handcuffs are a form of binding.

Binding is restricting someone's ability to take an offensive stance.

In Matthew 12:28-30, Jesus explains a concept of spiritual binding.

Matthew 12:28-30 (NIV)

28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

29 "Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house.

Matthew 12:29 NASB

29 "Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.

a) The Greek word for bind in this passage means to fasten with chains, or to throw into chains

(5) The strong man in Matthew 12:29 is Satan

Loosing

To loose is the opposite of binding.

- (6) To “loose” means to take the bindings off!

This is what Jesus came to do!

Luke 4:14-20

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. 15 He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

*18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,*

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

- (7) Jesus came to Bind the enemy and to loose us from the strongholds that were once placed upon us.

The enemy has already been defeated by Christ.

The Enemy is bound!

Colossians 2:13-15 (NIV)

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

- (8) Christ has already bound the strong man on the Cross of Calvary.

So How do I bind and loose? How does that work from a practical stand point.

Spiritual Law

Remember, that we are talking about laws that govern the unseen world, the Heavens. Christ told us that we have the power to bind on both the earth (the “physical” world) and the heavens (the spiritual world).

Even though these laws are in force, the enemy is a lawbreaker. He is a thief (John 10:10) and a liar (John 8:44). He will attempt to break these laws and claim what is not rightfully his.

- (9) The LAW is for my protection and I have legal rights that I must invoke to drive away the enemy.

What Jesus said in Matthew 16:19 is that whatever you bound on earth (has already been bound in Heaven) and what you loose on earth (has already loosed in heaven).

We are simply proclaiming what has already been done by Christ!

- ☑ (10) To Bind the enemy, circumstance or thought, we simply speak and remind the enemy that Jesus has taken away the power and authority.
“In the name of Jesus, you are bound and powerless. You have no power in my life”.

We claim Colossians 2:13-15

- ☑ (11) To loose, I simply proclaim that I have been set free from the dominion of darkness and the power of Sin. I am bound to Jesus Christ and loosed from sin and any claims of Satan.

Conclusion

- ☑ (1) As a Christian, you have been given the keys to heaven.
- ☑ (2) Christ Himself is the key to heaven
- ☑ (3) Christ has given me power and authority.
- ☑ (4) Bind means to tie or fasten.
- ☑ (5) The strong man in Matthew 12:29 is Satan
- ☑ (6) To “loose” means to take the bindings off!
- ☑ (7) Jesus came to Bind the enemy and to loose us from the strongholds that were once placed upon us.
- ☑ (8) Christ has already bound the strong man on the Cross of Calvary.
- ☑ (9) The LAW is for my protection and I have legal rights that I must invoke to drive away the enemy.
- ☑ (10) To Bind the enemy, circumstance or thought, we simply speak and remind the enemy that Jesus has taken away the power and authority.

“In the name of Jesus, you are bound and powerless. You have no power in my life”. We claim Colossians 2:13-15

- (11) To loose, I simply proclaim that I have been set free from the dominion of darkness and the power of Sin. I am bound to Jesus Christ and loosed from sin and any claims of Satan.