

**Title:** the beauty of church I – God’s plan to make His bride glorious  
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## Introduction

Can church be beautiful?

**Ephesians 5:25–27 (NKJV)** <sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, <sup>26</sup> *that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup> that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.**

## Slow down (Matt 16:13-18)

**Matthew 16:13–14 (NKJV)** <sup>13</sup> *When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “**Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?**”* <sup>14</sup> *So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”*

- We can all be so busy that we miss Jesus completely...
- **Word: Slow down. God turning our faces to Jesus. “Look at Me”**

## The Beauty of church

**Matthew 16:15 (NKJV)** <sup>15</sup> *He said to them, “But who do **you say** that **I am?**”*

- Why did Jesus ask them this question? Why didn't He merely tell them?
- Its' personal: How you see Jesus will determine if the church will be beautiful. Each of us together make up the church.
- \*Jesus is beautiful. When He becomes beautiful to us (personally / individually), then His church becomes beautiful.

## The Spirit-fed church

**Matthew 16:16–17 (NKJV)** <sup>16</sup> *Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* <sup>17</sup> *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.*

The church is experiencing a spiritual famine. **An anaemic** / starving church is not beautiful.

- The word alone, or even the truth alone doesn't bring life change.
- Blessed are you! *The source of this truth is all-defining!* \*
- People are fed when the word explodes into their hearts by the Holy Spirit.
- \*Jesus is the living Word. When the Spirit causes the word to come alive, then the famine is broken and **we are fed with Christ** Himself.
- *When Jesus is beautiful to us, then the church becomes beautiful as well.*

## The church of the little rocks

**Matthew 16:18 (NKJV)** <sup>18</sup> *And I also say to you that you are Peter, **and on this rock** I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

- The glorious church consists out of little rocks. *The little rocks together make up the church.*
- \*A little rock on its own? Can't build much with that.

- The beauty of the church? *Everyone is needed. Every little rock is needed.*
- I will build My church: Jesus is building His church.

## **The Triumphant church**

***Gates of Hades shall not prevail against it***

- The church is unstoppable when Jesus is the centre, the foundation and rock upon which she is built.

**2 Corinthians 2:14–15 (NKJV)** <sup>14</sup> *Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.*

- When we see Jesus and come to love Him, then we become beautiful.

***The church becomes beautiful, when Jesus is beautiful to us.***