

# Maranatha Mirror Message



## **CHURCHIANITY'S TWILIGHT HOUR**



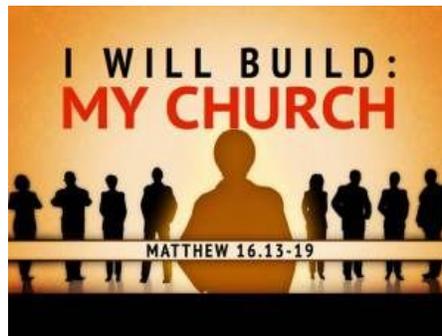
Let's face it. Churchianity is on it's way out. Big churches, little churches, mega churches, mini churches, contemporary churches, traditional churches---- the whole church system is stumbling toward oblivion.

Why is God allowing it?

Because God is raising up a replacement which will be what Jesus had in mind when he said,

***"On this Rock I will build my church."***

***Matthew 16:18***



**“My Church”** was never meant to be an institution with real estate holdings and financial clout, with religious professionals dominating the laity “in the name of Christ.”

**“My Church,”** which smashes the gates of death and sets the captives free, is simply the Kingdom of God breaking through this realm of darkness.

**“My Church”** is where people are serving together in Jesus’ name, set free from bondage to money, vanity, or fear of persecution.

A hint of this kind of church has turned up in a place where there are...

No church spires.

No clergy sit at the head table to offer the invocation at community banquets.

No TV evangelists.

No Christian radio.

In China, when Mao Xiao Tong got rid of all the missionaries and ministers, a strange thing happened to the struggling churches. They disappeared from view and began to multiply.



Meeting in basements and barns these little congregations took on a form closer to what Jesus describes as the Kingdom of God.

***“On this Rock I will build my church.”***

If we want to understand what **“My Church”** looks like, all we have to do is pay attention to what Jesus tells us about God’s Kingdom.

Wherever you find the Kingdom, you find **“My Church.”**

***Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesare'a Philip'pi, he asked his disciples, "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Eli'jah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven."***

***Matthew 16:13-17***

Peter did not “figure it out.” It was revealed to him.

Suddenly, Peter knew who Jesus is by a knowledge which comes only from heaven.

*“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it.”*

*Matthew 16:18*

## *Hearts are compelled to follow*



*“My Church” is made up of people who know who Jesus is.....  
to the point where their hearts compel them to follow him.*

They deny themselves, take up their cross daily and follow Jesus. They live by every word which proceeds from his mouth.

They do what he commands. They believe what he promises. They share in his suffering. They live by the resurrection power of his Spirit.

## *Seek God’s Kingdom First*



**“My Church”** is made up of people ... who seek God’s Kingdom first.

They are no longer in bondage to money,  
since money has ceased to be their security.

When they gather to worship God, when they spread out into the world as servants of the Kingdom, they trust God alone to provide whatever they need.

## **No Clergy**

**“My Church”** has no clergy.

*But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ. He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.*

*Matthew 23:8-12*



No clergy. No man or woman who functions like clergy, while calling themselves “Brother Jones” or “Sister Smith”

In **“My Church”** those who lead, do so as servants, never as masters. There is only one Master, one Teacher. All are learning what it means to be poor in spirit, to mourn, to be meek, merciful, pure in heart. As they seek to be peacemakers, they accept persecution as part of their calling.

## Created and Sustained by Jesus Alone

**“My church”** is created and sustained by Jesus alone.



In his vision on the Isle of Patmos, the apostle John hears Jesus addressing messages to seven churches that are struggling to be faithful in a hostile world. These churches have long since disappeared. But their counterparts will soon arrive on the scene---churches whose only link with each other and with heaven is the Lord Jesus himself.

*Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden girdle round his breast; his head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters; in his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth issued a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand upon me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one; I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."*

*Revelation 1:12-18*

The lampstands are churches, with the Lord in their midst, sustaining them, encouraging them, judging them, calling them to repentance.

They stay alive only as they walk in his light.

**My Church**

Why does he call it **“My Church”**?

Because there is another church which will soon emerge from the ashes of churchianity:

the Harlot.

The Harlot is the false church which will lead many astray and will ultimately be destroyed by the very evil it has embraced.

*And he said to me, "The waters that you saw, where the harlot is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the harlot; they will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire."*

*Revelation 17:15-16*

Churchianity has arrived at its twilight hour. The whole church system is stumbling toward oblivion. Those who are crucified with Christ, who live by the power of his resurrection, will soon find themselves drawn into the very thing our Lord intended, when he said,

***“On this rock I will build **my church**,  
and the powers of death shall not prevail against it.”***

Prayer

Jesus our Loving Master, our Teacher... Reveal to us in the depths of our hearts that you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Compel our hearts to love you with all we have, to follow you, to believe in your promises, to not fear persecution for your name and to live in your resurrection power. May our hearts embrace the servanthood of humility, mercy, and purity of heart because of your call of love to all mankind. Lord Jesus, sustain us, encourage us, judge us. Lead us away from, protect us from, and deliver us from the harlot, the false church. The false church that despises your call of sacrifice and faith at all costs. Gather us “your church” to worship you and serve you together, for your Kingdom, in this world and throughout time, setting the captives free, smashing the gates of darkness and breaking the chains of evil. We have faith that neither death, evil, or darkness will prevail against us. Amen.

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