

FOUNDATIONS

HISTORY, HERITAGE, DOCTRINE



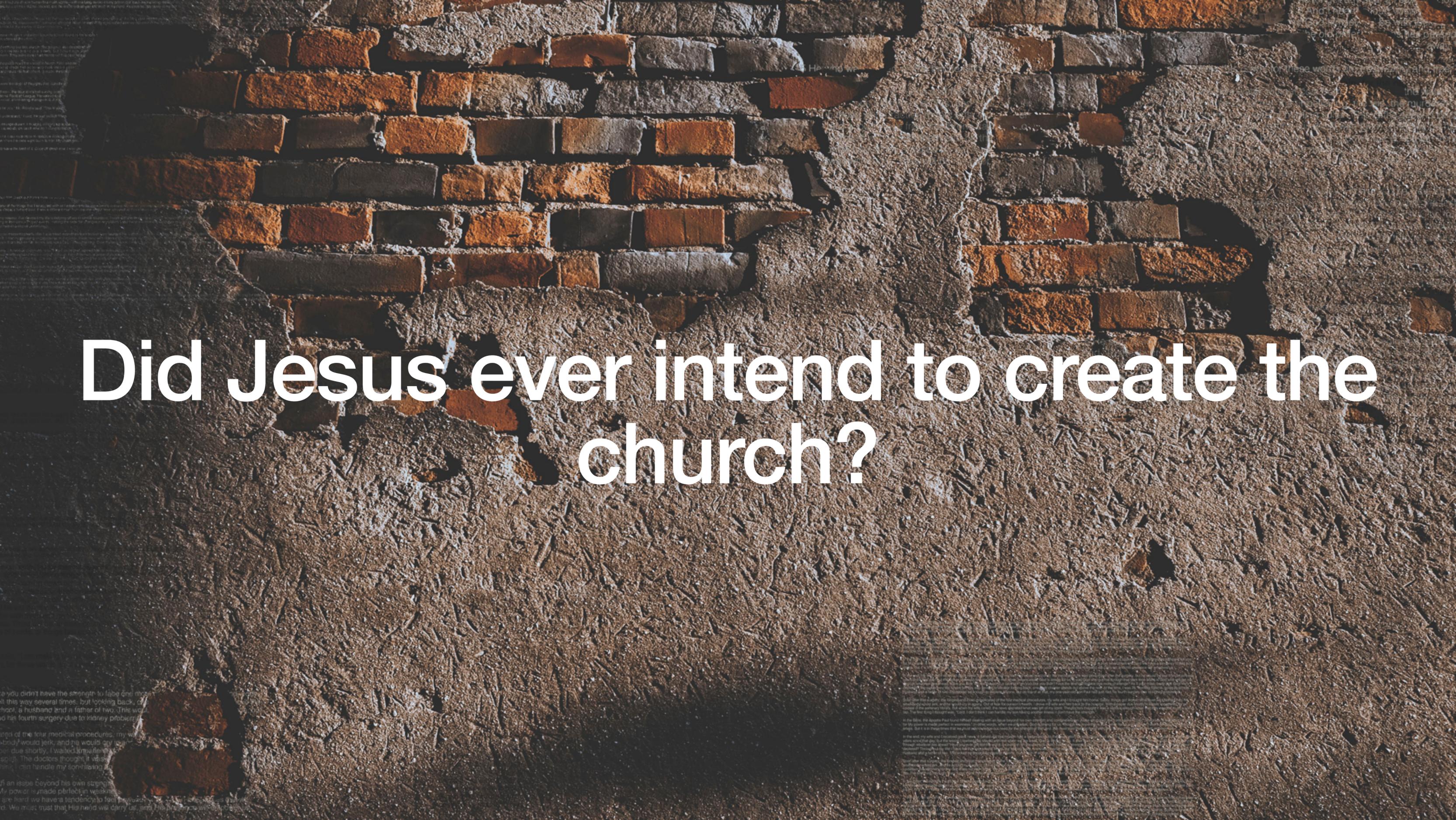
“Christianity is the only major religion to have as its central event the humiliation of its God.”

Bruce Shelley

Week 1

Jesus, Wineskins, and Nero

Foundations



Did Jesus ever intend to create the church?

Culture of the Day

I pledge allegiance

- Many loyalties
- Easy to be pulled in many ways
- Two million+ population
- Ruled by Rome
- Divided by region, religion and politics

Culture of the Day

I pledge allegiance

- Jerusalem
- Hellenistic (Greek) culture was rampant
- Jews made up close to 1/2 population
- Pharisees/Sadducees/Zealots/Essenes

Culture of the Day

I pledge allegiance

- Pharisees
- Emphasized Jewish traditions and practices
- Sadducees
- Small group of wealthy, pedigreed families, enjoyed the manners and fashions of Greco-Roman culture, politically conservative, controlled the Sanhedrin (high Jewish Council)

Culture of the Day

I pledge allegiance

- Zealots
 - Armed resistance to all Romans in the fatherland
- Essenes
 - Little or no interest in politics or warfare, withdrew in protest to the wilderness

Culture of the Day

I pledge allegiance

- Jesus had to draw all of these together
- He brought disciples alongside him to live countercultural lives and learn about living in the “kingdom of God.”

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, 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.”

And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Matthew 16:13-20

Upon this Rock

Peter—Petros and Petra

- Petros
- Simon's new name
- Masculine form
- Isolated rocks or small stones, pebbles

Upon this Rock

Peter—Petros and Petra

- Petra
- Feminine form
- Large solid rock such as a cliff
- Identification is not directly stated

Upon this Rock

Peter—Petros and Petra

- Petros and Petra
- Used interchangeably
- Used distinctly
- *Petros*, on this *Petra* I will build my church.

Upon this Rock

Yes, the *Petra* has something to do with Peter, but the *Petra* is not *Petros*. *Petra* is the confession of *Petros*; *petra* points to Jesus Christ.

Dr. Malcolm Yarnell

Upon this Rock

The rock the church is built on is proclaiming that you know Jesus intimately and he has changed your life forever.

Wineskins

Gospel goes to the Gentiles

Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.”

Matthew 9:14–17

Wineskins

Gospel goes to the Gentiles

- Early Jewish Church
- Acts 2-7
- Pentecost and Peter's Sermon—Acts 2
- Fellowship of Believers—Acts 2:42

Wineskins

Gospel goes to the Gentiles

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁴And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47

Wineskins

Gospel goes to the Gentiles

- The Gospel is spreading
 - Peter and John before the Council—Acts 4
 - Diakonos—Acts 6
 - Stephen Speaks and is Martyred—Acts 7
 - Paul ravages and then is rocked—Acts 8-9
 - Philip Evangelizes—Acts 8

Wineskins

Gospel goes to the Gentiles

- The Gospel is spreading
- Saul goes to Apostles — Acts 9
- Peter has vision for the Gentiles/Gentiles hear the Gospel/Holy Spirit falls on them — Acts 10
- Gospel spreads like wildfire and local churches form

Wineskins

Gospel goes to the Gentiles

- The Gospel is spreading
- Paul plants the church in Ephesus
- Paul returns to Jerusalem and is arrested
- AD 64—Nero begins persecution/Paul is not heard from again

Wineskins

Gospel goes to the Gentiles

- The Gospel is spreading
- Peter martyred by Nero, Paul rumored to be
- James leads church in Jerusalem/murdered by Jewish high priest command in AD 62
- The church in Jerusalem was leaderless
- Jews revolt in AD 66 and what leadership of the church still there, left the city
- AD 70 — destruction of Jerusalem