

He Will Not Let You Down

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Preached by Rev. Rollwage

KEY PASSAGES

Matthew 16:13-18 (NIV)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” 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. 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.”

John 20:30-31 (NIV)

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

FIVE KEY POINTS

- 1 Peter's confession, **“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God,”** is the rock Christ builds his church on. He builds on faith, not on stone or buildings.
- 2 The word “church” (*ecclesia*) means people **called and gathered together**, a living group of believers rather than a building. This passage is the first time the word “church” appears in the Bible.
- 3 The danger is letting the **institution stand in for the relationship**. Going to church can start to feel like the whole of Christianity while the relationship with God goes missing.
- 4 The church, and any pastor, **will let you down at some point**. If your faith is propped up on them, you can end up believing God let you down too.
- 5 **Jesus himself never lets you down**. The church still has a real job: bring people in, help them grow, and send them out to serve. All of it points back to that relationship with Jesus.

STORIES & ILLUSTRATIONS

The theme park of the gods. Jesus asked “Who do you say I am?” at Caesarea Philippi, standing among temples to Pan, Zeus, and Caesar and a cave people called the “gates of Hades.” Right there, in the shadow of a hundred pagan temples, he said his church would be built on Peter's confession of faith.

The husband who loved an institution. Asked if he loved his wife, a husband spent ten minutes talking about his steady job, the house, and his belief in marriage, without mentioning her once. Her reply: “He wants an institution. I want a relationship.”

The warning to his old congregation. Twenty years ago, in his first month at Zion, he told the congregation he would let them down at some point, a missed visit or a forgotten name, so they should never pin their faith on him or any pastor.

[Listen to the sermon again on Spotify](#) · [Re-watch the sermon on YouTube](#)

902-894-4721 · info@charlottetowncrc.org · charlottetowncrc.org

Created by Levi Ewald