**“Always the Same, Ever Changing - PT. 1”**

**Sep 14/15, 2024**

**Speaker: Tom Hughes**

**Opening:** [15 mins] We suggest you begin with an opening prayer and then a brief “catch up” or “icebreaker” before moving into the *scripture reflection* and *application questions*.

**Scripture Reflection:** [20 mins] **Read Matthew 16:18.** After allowing the group time to reflect on the passages, ask them to share what most stands out to them.

**Application Questions:** [40 mins](*These questions will help you and your group dig deeper into the weekend sermon. Feel free to edit or use only those which fit your allotted time.)*

1. Tom shared four ways that work with Jesus towards building up His church. Inviting, Serving, Giving, & Growing.
   1. If you were being honest right now which one of these four is the most challenging for you? Why?
   2. Are there any practical ways you can work towards growing in that area?
2. Tom shared in Jesus’ church everyone is welcome - who are you inviting?
   1. When was the last time you had a conversation of faith with an unbeliever?
      1. What was that experience like?
      2. Is this something that is hard for you to do?
         1. How can you grow?
   2. Is there anyone that you can think of that you have a hard time believing this promise is for (a certain demographic, lifestyle)?
3. Secondly, we leaned that in Jesus’ church everyone is needed - how are you serving.
   1. Are you actively serving at them moment?
      1. If not what is preventing you from starting?
      2. Did you sense that it is time to start serving? Where will you begin?
      3. If you are serving what are some of the ways you have seen God working through your acts of service?
4. In Jesus’ church everyone is contributing - how are you giving?
   1. Do you agree/disagree that Jesus is calling us to give financially?
   2. What practical things do you have in pace to ensure that you are faithful in this area?
5. Lastly, In Jesus’ church everyone is changed - how are you growing?
   1. As you look back at your journey of faith - how have you seen yourself grow since becoming a believer?
   2. Are you currently growing? How?
      1. If not what steps can you take to get to a place where you are growing?

**Closing & Prayer**: [15 mins]

* Receive prayer requests. Pray for all