

Sermon Notes – The Ways of Jesus: Empowered by the Spirit

October 22, 2023

Intro:

- College and caffeine

Scripture:

Luke 3:21-22 - When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

John 14:11-14 – Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

- 1) Holy Spirit Empowerment – A difficult reality
 - a. Empowerment of Jesus
 - i. Preaching/teaching
 - ii. Miracles
 - iii. Mentoring the disciples
 - iv. Engaging evil spirits, unbelievers and sinners
 - b. Empowerment of believers (or lack thereof...)
 - i. The “experience gap” – where our current experiences do not line up with what Scripture teaches... only 2 options:
 - ii. “dumb down” what the bible teaches
 - iii. elevate our experiences by faith so we can experience more of what the bible teaches and be closer to Jesus
 1. Leonard Ravenhill quote: “One of these days, some simple soul will pick up the Book of God, read it, and believe it. Then the rest of us will be embarrassed.”
- 2) Holy Spirit Empowerment – An amazing truth
 - a. Holy Spirit Empowerment – Either the apostles “gained divinity” or else Jesus was empowered by the Spirit and simply walked in spiritual authority as a Spirit-anointed man
 - i. Still fully God, but he gave up His divine right (Philippians 2:5-11)
 - ii. Here’s the process:
 - a. **Jesus came from the Father**
 - b. **Jesus was empowered by the Spirit**
 - c. **Jesus proclaimed repentance and the Kingdom**
 - d. **Jesus gathered disciples**
 - e. **Jesus died and rose again**
 - f. **Jesus passed on the mission to the disciples**

g. The disciples were empowered by the Spirit to do the works of Jesus, and EVEN GREATER

Same kinds of miracles as Jesus:

- Acts 9:36-41 – Peter prays for a lady named Tabitha and she comes back from the dead (Jesus raised Lazarus...)
- Acts 9:1-19 – Saul was struck blind, and then prayed for by a man named Ananias and is healed (Jesus healed blind people)
- Acts 16:16-18 – Paul commands an evil spirit to come out of a young woman (Jesus cast out many evil spirits)

“Greater miracles”

- Acts 28:1-5 – Paul was bitten by a poisonous snake but suffered no harm
- Acts 5:15-16 – people brought their sick into the streets, waiting for Peter to pass by so that his shadow would pass over them and they would be healed
- Acts 19:11-12 – Hankie and apron healings by Paul

- b. If it's true, then that means each one of us are directly invited by Jesus to partner with His Spirit to change the world!!
- c. Purpose of being empowered by the Holy Spirit
 - i. To push back darkness around us by winning souls and setting captives free
 - ii. To draw closer to Jesus and experience more of His presence
 - iii. To live and proclaim Christ's kingdom
 - 1. Winning souls
 - 2. Setting captives free
- 3) Walking in the empowerment of the Holy Spirit
 - a. Addressing roadblocks
 - b. Being filled with the Holy Spirit
 - c. Staying connected to Jesus (relationship/intimacy with Jesus is key – John 15 – abiding fruit)
 - i. This is why I spoke about Jesus' connection with the Father last week, it sets the stage to talk about what it means to live the Christian life empowered by the Holy Spirit
 - ii. We are saved into this relationship, but walking in empowerment (spiritual authority) does not come naturally, or from our own wisdom, intellect or inherent authority
 - d. Let the wind blow!
 - i. Praying for Pam's shoulder

Prayer Question:

- 1) **Jesus, what is holding me back from living the empowered life you have called me to?**