
The Power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:13-17 (NLT) - Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴But John tried to talk him out of it. “I am the one who needs to be baptized by you,” he said, “so why are you coming to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus said, “It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.” So John agreed to baptize him. ¹⁶After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.”

John 20:19-22 (NLT) - That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said. ²⁰As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! ²¹Again he said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” ²²Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

The Authority of Jesus.

Luke 9:1-3 (NLT) - One day Jesus called together his twelve disciples and gave them power and authority to cast out all demons and to heal all diseases. ²Then he sent them out to tell everyone about the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. ³“Take nothing for your journey,” he instructed them. “Don’t take a walking stick, a traveler’s bag, food, money, or even a change of clothes.”

Luke 10:19 (NLT) - “Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you.”

For Personal Participation in the Ministry of the Kingdom.

Luke 19:11-27 (NLT) - The crowd was listening to everything Jesus said. And because he was nearing Jerusalem, he told them a story to correct the impression that the Kingdom of God would begin right away. ¹²He said, “A nobleman was called away to a distant empire to be crowned king and then return. ¹³Before he left, he called together ten of his servants and divided among them ten pounds of silver, saying, ‘Invest this for me while I am gone.’ ¹⁴But his people hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We do not want him to be our king.’ ¹⁵After he was crowned king, he returned and called in the servants to whom he had given the money. He wanted to find out what their profits were. ¹⁶The first servant reported, ‘Master, I invested your money and made ten times the original amount!’ ¹⁷‘Well done!’ the king exclaimed. ‘You are a good servant. You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you, so you will be governor of ten cities as your reward.’ ¹⁸The next servant reported, ‘Master, I invested your money and made five times the original amount.’ ¹⁹‘Well done!’ the king said. ‘You will be governor over five cities.’ ²⁰But the third servant brought back only the original amount of money and said, ‘Master, I hid your money and kept it safe. ²¹I was afraid because you are a hard man to deal with, taking what isn’t yours and harvesting crops you didn’t plant.’ ²²‘You wicked servant!’ the king roared. ‘Your own words condemn you. If you knew that I’m a hard man who takes what isn’t mine and harvests crops I didn’t plant, ²³why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’ ²⁴Then, turning to the others standing nearby, the king ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one who has ten pounds.’ ²⁵‘But, master,’ they said, ‘he already has ten pounds!’ ²⁶‘Yes,’ the king replied, ‘and to those who use well what they are given, even more will be given. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. ²⁷And as for these enemies of mine who didn’t want me to be their king—bring them in and execute them right here in front of me.’”

Acts 1:6-8 (NLT) - So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?” ⁷He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

We have received the power of the Holy Spirit and the authority of Jesus to personally participate in the ministry of the Kingdom.

Study Guide

This last Sunday we spoke about the Ministry of the Kingdom, and that we have received the power of the Holy Spirit and authority of Jesus to personally participate in the ministry of the Kingdom. Let’s take a look at what that looked like in the Bible.

Read Acts 3:1-11. As you consider this story of the apostles ministering to a crippled man, what stands out to you? One of the most remarkable things about this story to me is the boldness of Peter and John and the uniqueness of the interaction. Peter and John would have been by this way before, and may have even seen this man before, but in this moment they take note, step in and change this man’s life. They were embodying the ministry of Jesus on a personal level and it changed this man’s life forever. They didn’t take him anywhere, they didn’t need to call anyone else. They were drawn to a man who needed an intervention from God and they were a part of that happening.

As you think about your life, what areas of it have you been really ready to partner with God? What areas of your life are harder? Do you have any stories of moments when you acted according to God’s direction and participated in Kingdom Ministry? Any opportunities you might have missed?

Take some time to share how you intend to be Jesus to the people around you and pray for the opportunity and boldness to do so.