

Power, Rights, and Purpose

Script - Mt. 5:14-16

- A. Intro - There is currently a lot in the news about different individuals vying for power in political arena. There is also a lot about the rights of certain organizations and groups how they have been trampled upon in the past and what things can be done to rectify those abuses now in society. What should be taught in the schools and what should not. Many are wondering about the purpose of it all and where it will lead. I want to speak to that today.
1. Definition of "Purpose"
 - a. The reason for which something exists or is done, made, used, etc.
 - b. An intended or desired result; end; aim; goal.
 - c. Determination; resoluteness.
 - e. To set as an aim, intention, or goal for oneself.
 - f. To intend; design.
 2. When we think of these current topics in our world we look for answers from His Power, His Rights, and His Purpose for our lives (Gen. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Mt. 6:8; Mt. 5:14-16, Phil. 4:6-7, 19; Rom. 12:2).
- A. They were amazed at his power.
1. When Jesus started his ministry there were many times recorded that the people around him would marvel about his power. When Jesus called some fishermen to follow him he used their boat to present his message to the multitudes that gathered along the shore. Then to repay he asked the fishermen to go out again and let down their nets. When they caught so many fish they had to call their partners in another boat to haul in the nets and it says that "They were astonished at the catch (Lk. 5:1-11).
 2. When he taught them in their synagogue "they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Mt. 13:54-55 NKJV
 3. In the region of Tyre and Sidon "they were astonished beyond measure" when he healed a man that was deaf and mute and said, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak." Mark 7:37 NKJV
 4. When Jesus commanded the evil spirits to come out of a man "they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him." Mark 1:27 NKJV
 5. When He walked upon the water " they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled. Mark 6:51-52 NKJV
 6. That same power displayed by Jesus while on earth is still available to us today. To heal, to advise, to protect, to provide for all our needs (Eph. 3:20; Jude 24; Rev. 14:6-7; Ps. 96:9).

SONG - HOW GREAT THOU ART

- B. They questioned his right to forgive sins
1. When they let the crippled man down through the roof the first thing that Jesus did was to forgive the paralytic's sins and when teachers of the law questioned him about his right to forgive Jesus healed the paralytic and told him to take up his bed and walk and "when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men. Mt 9:8 NKJV
 2. When they beat him several times and stripped him of his outer garments and hung him upon the

cross they thought they had limited him of his power and stopped him from his ministry and he then responded to the thief beside him and promised that he would remember him when he came into his kingdom (Lk. 23:43-).

C. They questioned his purpose

1. In the garden, when the mob came to arrest him. Peter drew his sword and cut off Malcus's ear, Jesus told Peter to put up his sword for prophecy had to be fulfilled. Then he said to Peter that he could call 12 legions of angels to deliver him and set him free. But that was not his purpose.

Song - 10000 Angels

2. At his trial the high Priest questioned Jesus about his doctrine and he told them he taught openly and they struck him (Jn. 18:22).
3. Pilate asked him about his kingdom and he said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." "37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." (Jn 18:36-37 NKJV).

D. Applications for today

1. From the beginning Jesus never wavered from the course that was laid out for him. When he started his ministry and they marveled at his power he called them to be fishers of men.
2. When being tried by Pilate there was a lot of noise going on, with the priest and people shouting crucify him, and Pilate getting a note from his wife to have nothing to do with this just man. That's a lot like today with many groups shouting at each other and vying for power and trying to shape the future of this great nation we call home. I want to remind you of three things;
 - a. He still has the power to perform miracles in your life so that you are amazed and astonished at his power.
 - b. They might have been able to strip him of his outer garments and crucify his body but in the midst of the chaos and confusion he displayed his ability to forgive sins and promise salvation to those that would follow him. That is still true today.
3. Throughout his ministry Jesus called followers to his side and enlisted them in service to others to tell of a kingdom that is beyond the chaos, a kingdom that is out of this world and coming soon. As we are led in our closing song "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" I want you to respond by lifting your hand or standing if you can.
4. His power is still available to us today (Isa. 59:1; Mt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5; Isa. 53:7; Rom. 8:28; Mt. 5:14-16; Ps. 50:15; Dan. 3; 1 Jn. 3:1-3; Rev. 14:12; Lk. 18:8).