



Life Group Study Notes

"Kingdom Come: Kingdom Power"

Sr. Ps. James Lowe - February 4, 2017

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- How or in what ways do you enjoy helping people?
- What is one quality that you think is important when serving others?
- What is one need that you presently have in your life?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Luke 4:1-2, 13-14 ESV *And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry... And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time. And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.*

1. Right Spirit

Jesus was full of the Spirit of God. He was led by the Spirit. And he himself had the right spirit. His heart was right before God. He sought to honor God and do his will. He was not self-centered, self-indulgent, or self-absorbed.

Jesus serves by God's will as our example. We should study him and consider his ways and learn from him. Like him, we too must seek and worship God in order to be filled with God's Spirit. Like him, we must seek the Spirit's guidance in all things. Like him, we must allow the Spirit's influence in us to shape and mold our hearts before God.

Luke 4:16, 18-19 ESV *And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read... "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

2. Right Anointing

Jesus was anointed, or empowered, with God's Spirit. As the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 4:20 (ESV), *"the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power."* Jesus was empowered to speak to people about the good news of God's salvation. He came to declare God's freedom for people bound in sin, guilt, and shame. He came to bring deliverance for people oppressed by the devil. He came to minister God's favor.

Jesus didn't begin his work to help people without having first been empowered by the Holy Spirit. Like him, we need to be empowered by God's Spirit to spiritually help people. Because of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God has covenantally made his Spirit available to all of us who turn to God through Jesus and trust in him. God's Spirit is available to us every day.

Luke 4:42-43 ESV *And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose."*

3. Right Ministry

Jesus was concerned not just for the people in his circle of friends, family, and home town. His love was greater than that. He was moved by God to help others who were strangers to him. He continued to seek to meet new people, to talk to them about God's kingdom and salvation, and to minister to them in the power of God.

Jesus has shown us the way. We too are to allow God's Spirit to expand the love of God in our hearts for other people. We are to trust God for guidance in how to expand our reach to other people without becoming irresponsible with the duties of our every day lives. God's Spirit can open our eyes to people around us and give us insight into how to spiritually and practically serve them.

One of the marks of spiritual maturity is an increased capacity to give our lives away in obedience to God for the benefit of others. May God anoint us, and lead us, and minister through us to others, so that more people might come to believe in Jesus and follow him!

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- What are some practical ways to cultivate the presence of God's Spirit in your life?
- What can you practically do to access God's empowerment?
- What sphere or group of people does God want you to minister to or reach with the Gospel?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for the gifts of his Son and his Spirit in your life.
- Ask God for a greater measure of his Spirit's presence and power in your life.
- Ask God for a greater love for the people he has placed in your life.