

Surprised By Power - Making the Power of the Gospel Practical

Matthew 16:18 (ESV) ...On this rock^[a] I will build my church, and the gates of hell^[b] shall not prevail against it.

Romans 1:16a NIV 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes

Intro: Healing of Ralph on Douglas blvd

- Vision of the wave

“The Power you are contending for will kill you unless you are grounded in my character.”

2 Corinthians 4:7 New International Version “But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us”.

- Jesus has chosen his church to be the vessel and vehicle of his power to to a lost and broken world.

Church building Pic
Church stage pic

Is our present context of “church” what Jesus was referring to?

- In Matthew 16 Jesus is passing through a area called Caesarea Philippi
- This area was known as a gathering place for occultic practices that centered around a place called Pan’s Grotto

Gates of Hell (Pan’s Grotto) pic

- In the landscape of darkness Jesus declares the church will be his solution

Matthew 16:18 (ESV) ...on this rock^[a] I will build my church, and the gates of hell^[b] shall not prevail against it.

Church: Ekklesia “People with shared belief, a *community with a... common identity*” BDAG

- You actually won't find the word “church” many times in the new testament but what you will find are many metaphors that both Jesus and the disciples use to describe His Ecclesia

The Ekklesia Is

- Shepherd and the sheep (John 10:11-15)
- Vine and the branches (John 15:1-8)
- Cornerstone and the living stones of His Temple (Eph. 2:19-22)
- High Priest and the kingdom of priests (Heb. 5:1-11 1st Peter 2:9-10)
- Head and the body with its many members (I Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 5:23)
- Bridegroom and the Bride (Rev. 21:9).

The Church Is: A living breathing organism that carries the and power and presence of God to restore the brokenness of humanity

The Church Is

- **The salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13)**
- **The light of the world (Matthew 5:14)**
- The display of the wisdom of God (Ephesians 3:10)
- **Restores and Repairs brokenness in the world (2 Corinthians 5:18)**
- **Representation of God's Kingdom (2 Corinthians 5:20)**

Jesus chooses to use His church as the vehicle of his gospel to display His power to the world.

Romans 1:16a NIV For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes

- The gospel is the power that leads to salvation
- There are many words that have significance in Christianity

Worship; Salvation; Righteousness; Sanctification, Propitiation

What is “The Gospel”?

- The common belief is that the gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus
- If that is the case what gospel did Jesus preach before the cross?

Mark 1:15 ESV “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Gospel: *Euangelion* often used in “bringing news of victory” or “declaring a victory.”

“A messenger comes from the place of battle and declares victory over enemies or the death of the opponent. This messenger regards himself as a bearer of good tidings (2 S. 4:10... Every messenger from a battlefield came to be called εὐαγγελιστής (Euangelistou translated Evangelist)” Theological Dictionary of the New Testament

- This gospel goes beyond the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus

The gospel is the fullness of the life and ministry of Jesus that we now have available to us

- We capture a glimpse of the gospel of Jesus in a small little town called Nazareth

Luke 4:18-19 “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, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

Luke 4:20-21 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

- This was the gospel of the Messiah to set captives free
- Immediately following his declaration he begins to liberate the oppressed

Luke 4:40-41 English Standard Version 40 Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. 41 And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

- The battle is spiritual

Ephesians 6:12 English Standard Version 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

- Our fight is not a material fight their is a real enemy

Two types of Fear

Phobos: Fear – Terror or awe/reverence for an exalted ruler or god

- This fear was the common response when someone encountered the presence of God or was simply afraid for their life
- The second fear was not as commonly used in scripture

2 Timothy 1:7 English Standard Version (ESV) for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Fear: *deilós* - cowardly, timid

Realistic vs Rational

- The danger of the type of fear Paul describes in 2nd Timothy is that it's rational
- It's the type of fear that is able to justify it's response... justify excuses
- The major difference is that they were afraid for their lives, and we are afraid for our livelihood

Early church fathers on fear

“The double-minded...they that have the Lord on their lips, but have Him not in their heart. Therefore their foundations are dry and without power, and their words only live, but their works are dead. Such men are neither alive nor dead... when they hear of tribulation, through their cowardice worship idols and are ashamed of the name of their Lord. Such are neither alive nor dead... they are delivered over... to the (world) who deprive them of their life.” Lightfoot, J. B., & Harmer, J. R. (1891). [*The Apostolic Fathers*](#)

- This power doesn't stay with Jesus he empowers his disciples with this gospel

Matthew 10:1 ESV And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.

- The gates of hell begin to shake and as a result the disciples surprisingly say

Luke 10:1 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) After this the Lord appointed seventy^[a] others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go.

- The gospels are not accidental but rather intentional
- Although it may seem like Luke is just recording the number of appointed disciples there is tremendous significance behind it.

“Moses who on one occasion chose 70 elders of Israel, who were given a share of God’s Spirit, were thereby equipped to help him lead the people of Israel Numbers 11:16,25... The point is that Jesus is sending out assistants to help in leading the new Exodus.” NT Wright Luke for everyone pg 120

Luke 10:2 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

- When the harvest was ripe they would need to hire laborers to gather the harvest before it was too late
- Jesus is echoing the common understanding when harvest is here you can’t delay

Luke 10:3 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) ³ Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.

Sheep pic – Domestic vs. Wild

- **Alton Brown Lamb episode**
- Domestic are fat, over fed and don’t listen
- Wild are attune to their shepherds voice
- We need the Holy Spirit’s wisdom and leadership in our journey of being like Jesus
- There are real dangers

Luke 10:4 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.

Illusion of not ready

- We over pack and over prepare
- **Over packing pic**
- He gives us everything we need for the journey we have ahead of us

Luke 10:5-6 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ ⁶ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you.

Practical Power

1. Look

“The Greco Roman notion of peace.. the absence of war and social discord... ..Shalom in the OT... wellbeing.. security, plenty..”

Your peace has power

“57% of the people surveyed showed significant signs of stress and anxiety.” 2017
American Psychological Association

“We rush out the door with a hurried good bye... go to a [workplace](#) and stay in our bubbles of personal space, with virtually no physical contact with others. It’s no wonder that many of us feel touch deprived.” [Ronald E. Riggio, Ph.D., Professor of Leadership and Organizational Psychology Claremont McKenna College.](#)

Luke 10:7-8 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. 8) Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you;

Practical Gospel

- 1. Look**
- 2. Listen and Learn**

Andy Tattoo – they want to belong
Story of Sam at diamond park

Luke 10:9New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) cure the sick who are there, and say to them, “The kingdom of God has come near to you.”^[a]

- 1. Look**
- 2. Listen and Learn**
- 3. Love**

Story of Marsha and Lisa