

“...in the Power of the Spirit...”

Text: Luke 4; Acts 1:8 Date: October 16, 2022

INTRODUCTION

Last week I quoted theologian Christopher J.H. Wright. To paraphrase that quote, he said basically this: *It's not that God has a church in the world with a mission. No. It's that God is on mission in the world with a church.* But He is not only God on mission. He is God at war.

⁸ *...The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.* (1 John 3:8b)

The Baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:21-22)

Church, understand this with me... Jesus, having been willing to take on flesh, though eternally perfect in character, was temporarily finite in power. But at the moment of His baptism, the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus like a dove and from that moment on...

The Spirit of God came upon the Son of God and began to usher in the Kingdom of God for the glory of God.

So, what did that look like? What was the result of the Spirit of God coming upon Jesus? Turn with me to Luke 4:14 and following: Page 834

A Prophecy Fulfilled (Luke 4:14-22)

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

In the ministry of Jesus, we see that the Spirit of God indeed came upon the Son of God and began to usher in the Kingdom of God for the glory of God THROUGH:

Authoritative Teaching (Luke 4:31-32)

Casting Out of Demons (Luke 4:33-37)

Healing of Every Disease (Luke 4:28-41)

Preaching the Good News of the Kingdom of God (Luke 4:42-44)

A Summary of Jesus' Ministry (Matthew 9:35-38)

“So Send I You” (John 20:21; Acts 1:8)

CONCLUSION

In Mark 1:15, Jesus said, *“The Kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”*

By God's grace we have repented. The question is... do we believe?

- Do we believe that Jesus is stronger than the Strongman?
- Do we believe that the whole reason the Son of Man came was to destroy the works of the evil one?
- Do we believe that when the Spirit of God came upon the Son of God He began to usher in the Kingdom of God for the glory of God?
- And do we believe that that same Spirit has come upon us?

Church, do we believe that the Kingdom of God has come?

Are we not ministers of the Gospel? Then let's be ministers of the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

1. In what ways do we see Jesus, the Son of God, anointed by the Spirit of God, ushering in the Kingdom of God for the glory of God?
2. What is the significance of John 20:21 and Acts 1:8 to the believer?
3. What might it look like for US to believe the good news of the Kingdom? That is, the Jesus is STILL destroying the works of the evil one but now through His Body, the Church?