

March 3, 2013

THE LAST WORDS OF JESUS

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

The Beginning of the Christian Church

The Book of Acts records the first 30 years of history of the Christian church beginning in the ascension of Jesus up until when the gospel spread and the church grew from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria and up to Rome.

The Last Words of Jesus

Before His ascension, Jesus told His disciples:

"...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." (Acts 1:8-9)

His last words were intended to be left ringing in the ears of His disciples, and to be passed on to the coming generations. Jesus essentially spoke about three things in His last words.

1. Power

Peter, who denied Jesus three times (Matthew 26:33-35), and the rest of the disciples who fled and hid for fear of the Jews were both ashamed and disheartened about what they did. Jesus knew they needed His power to be able to spread the gospel and that is what He promised to give them.

There are two dimensions to this power: the power by ability and power by authority.

Power by ability comes from the Greek word "*dunamis*" where the English words dynamite, dynamic, dynamism came from. This power comes from sheer energy and force.

Power by authority comes from the Greek word "*exusia*" (Matthew 28:18-20). This is the power which men and women in uniform or in positions like the policemen or the Queen of England have. They don't always have the dynamic power but their power comes from their inherent authority.

Ability without authority can be dangerous while authority without ability can be pathetic. Jesus has both. Both were given to the disciples as well when the Holy Spirit came upon them.



380 S. Rosemead Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91107

Sundays
945 AM
Heart
Preparation

1000 AM
WORSHIP

Dgroup Schedules

Wednesday

GALATIANS CLASS

730pm

**380 S Rosemead
Blvd**

Pasadena, CA

Thursdays

730 pm

**2617 N Parish Place
Burbank, CA**

Fridays

700 pm

**5124 Ashworth St
Lakewood,**

2. Purpose

The result of power is purpose. When the Holy Spirit lives in us, our purpose is to become witnesses of Jesus. Peter and John, filled with the Holy Spirit, boldly witnessed in the name of Jesus. When the crowd saw this and realized that they were unschooled and ordinary men they were amazed. They noted that they had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13).

This is also true in our life today. As we witness for Jesus, the difference in our lives can only be credited to the fact that we have Him and that He lives in us. Our responses, our appearance, behavior, and disposition, tell others about our relationship with Jesus.

3. Process

The mission plan was to start in Jerusalem then to bring the gospel to Judea and then Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Jerusalem was for most of them, a place of failure, where Peter denied Jesus three times; where one of them had committed suicide; where they all had fled and hid out of fear.

It could have been easier for them to start somewhere else where nobody knew them and where they could start clean. But Jesus told them to start there so that people would see the difference in what they can become when they receive power from the Holy Spirit.

Our witness is most powerful where the people know who we were: with our weaknesses, our sins, our brokenness – then they would see the saving and transforming power of Jesus who now lives in us.

Our “Jerusalem” (where we are) is just the starting point. We are to carry out the mission to our nearest reach (Judea) and to intentionally cross over cultural, racial, sect boundaries where people may not like us or disagree with us (Samaria) and all the way to the ends of the earth.

Jesus’ last words to His disciples are also meant for us Christians today. We owe the next generations the passing on and the spreading of the gospel as present day disciples and witnesses of Jesus.

We cannot effectively serve God or live our Christian life by our own strength. Just as a glove is motionless without a hand wearing it, we are powerless without the Holy Spirit. He will enable us to live life as true and effective witnesses of God to the people watching us

Works: Journaling task

- 1. 3Ps Be With You.** According to Acts 1:8 what is the power, purpose and process of Jesus' mission plan with His disciples?
- 2. Power Inventory.** Take a look at your life today. Is the power of the Holy Spirit, both *dunamis* and *exusia*, lived out in your life? If yes, in what ways is it manifested? If not, what do you think hinders it from becoming evident?
- 3. Non-Negotiable.** No Christian is exempted from being a witness of Jesus. What specific things are you prompted to start doing and to stop doing to become a true and effective witness of Jesus?

Pass the Message

List down the names of people God is leading you to be a witness for Him in the coming days. Make it your goal to be able to share the gospel to them within the year.

Take note of the date you were able to share to each person. Pray for the persons in your list regularly.

Share with your Dgroup for prayer, your personal goal for this year including your intentional steps of action for the next months, to obey God and take Jesus' last words seriously.

NAME	TARGET DATE	DATE SHARED
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1.

2.

3.

How has this message made me grow in the process of Discipleship in terms of:

SUPREME LOVE OF GOD

STUDY & DEVOTION TO GOD'S WORD

SELF DENIAL

CHRIST-LIKE LOVE
