

The Promise

Acts 1:4-9

4 And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me;

5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

v4- And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me;

1) It's a promise to equip us for the plan He has for his church!

The great promise of the Father was that He would send His Spirit to dwell in the hearts of men.

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever--

John 15:26 "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me."

John 16:7-8 - But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:

a) This Promise is Personal; it is for ALL who believe

b) This Promise is Constant

c) The Promise is Outwardly Focused

2) It is a promise of Power!

v8 - You will receive Power

a) Power for Reaching the Lost

Acts 2:41 - "Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."

This was not pulpit preaching, it was the spirit empowered preaching of a fisherman!

b) Power for Boldness

Acts 4:31 - And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

c) Power for Unity

Acts 4:32 - And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them."

d) Power for Generosity

Acts 4:34 - For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

e) Power for Healing the sick

Acts 5:14 - multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number, to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them.

Jn. 14:12 - "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father.

3) This Promise of Power has a Purpose!

Vs. 8 – You will be my witnesses

1 Cor. 4:5 tells us..."He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God."

Jn. 14:16-17 - And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor (Parakletos) to be with you forever-- the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

Parakletos is...

Intercessor- One who prays on your behalf

Consoler- One who tends wounds and hurts

Helper- One who does for you what you can't do for yourself (Jet bomber)

Advocate- One who speaks on your behalf (lawyer)

Counselor- One who provides wisdom

Comforter- One who covers (scarf or blanket- keeps warm and protects)

vs. 10-11 - They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Mt. 25:14-30

14. "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.

15. To one he gave five talents A talent of silver was the value of nine man-years of skilled work.- Gold 16 years)¹of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.

16. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more.

17. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more.

18. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19. "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.

20. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

21. "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

22. "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

23. "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

24. "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. (He didn't know the true character of his master)

25. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

26. "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?

27. Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

28. "' Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents.

29. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.

30. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'