

Small Group & Personal Bible Study Lesson

Pastor Dennis Hadley

Memory Verse: John 14:12

“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.” (Words of Jesus Christ)

Daily Reading Plan:

- Day 1: Luke 24:45-49
- Day 2: Mark 16:14-20
- Day 3: Luke 5:17-26
- Day 4: Luke 8:40-56
- Day 5: Luke 9:1-9
- Day 6: Matthew 10:5-26
- Day 7: Mark 6: 7-13

Lesson: His Ministry Requires Only His Power and His Authority

1. What direction did Jesus give His followers about their mission in Luke 24:45-49?
He gives them a commission but it is to be carried out under the authority and power of the Holy Spirit at work in them.

He told them they would be sent to preach (proclaim) repentance and forgiveness to all nations beginning right where God's put you (for them that was Jerusalem). So they are told to be the witnesses to God's redeeming work. They are told that Jesus would send what His Father promised (The Holy Spirit). And that they should stay and wait to be clothed with power from on high.

2. Read Mark 16:14-20. What did Jesus say about those who believe in Him?
He said that those who believe and are baptized would be saved. And signs will accompany their belief. That they will drive out demons, speak in new tongues, pick up snakes, drink poison and not die, place hands on sick and they will get well.
3. Read the following passages from the gospel of Luke; 5:17-26, 8:40-56, 9:1-6.

What is present in these miraculous works of God? (Look as the following verses: Luke 5:17, 8:46, 9:1)

In each of these verses, the Lord Jesus is present and also His power.

Luke 5:17 says, “The power of the Lord was present for Him to heal the sick”

Luke 8:46 says, “Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.”

Luke 9:1 says, “He gave them power and authority to drive our demons and to cure diseases.” Also to “preach the kingdom of God.”

In each of these scriptures we find that the presence and dependence on God is essential to carrying out His commission. John 15:5 Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in Him, he will bear fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing.” Nothing? That is right, nothing. Without the power of God at work we will do nothing of eternal value. In John 15:16 Jesus continued by saying, “you did not choose me but I chose you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”

Deeper Optional Study on the Power of Prayer:

4. Read James 5:13-20. Why do you think some of us fail to have faith like Elijah? (You can read about Elijah in 1 Kings 17:1, 18:1-46)

Ask yourself, what was the prophet Elijah's motive for prayer? James 4:2-3 says, "You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives."

I believe that as I read about the Prophet Elijah I see clearly that the power of His prayer is from God and his motive for the prayer is to reveal God.

Let me tell you a story about the power and motive of prayer.

The day I prepared this study, Monday March 9th as I was in the word God used James 5 and James 4 to really convicted me on prayer in faith to reveal God. I have always believed this but now God revealed to me in a deeper understanding of the purpose of prayer in James 5. It says the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James then uses then Elijah, just a man like you and me, as an example and how he prayed. I thought about and read about Elijah's prayer and it occurred to me, he always prayed for a purpose, to reveal God! James 4 says, "You do not have because you do not ask God, and when you ask you do not receive because you ask with the wrong motives." God showed me that the motive of Elijah, the desire to reveal God, is the right motive of pray in faith.

Then, that same night at our small group we received a knock on the door about 8:30ish. It was Sara, daughter of Joanne from my small group. We knew obviously something was wrong. Joanne's father (Leo) had been taken by ambulance to El Camino Hospital emergency room. Joanne left to go with Sara. We prayed for her dad as a group. After study was complete I talked with Joanne on the phone and then I went up to the hospital realizing it was very serious. He was in really bad life threatening condition. The doctors had not given a very certain or comforting expectation of the outcome. He is an old man that has only one kidney as the other was removed with cancer. He has congestive heart failure, diabetic, and just recently suffered from fluid in his lungs. Last night his blood pressure and pulse dropped so low he passed out; he hit his head and arms. He suffered tremendous head trauma and bleeding. He went into shock. When I arrived he was on a respirator unable to breathe on his own ye, still in shock and was also on a heart monitor. His pulse had already came up but they didn't know if he was able to breathe on his own.

God gave me a certainty in my heart he was going to be alright and I trusted that to be true even though I can't say why. So I prayed in faith with them over him. I didn't anoint him with oil because of the head injury and blood still on his head. But still, as we prayed he was beginning to move. Within minutes he opened his eyes yet didn't still completely respond. Within about 5 more minutes he was able to respond, open his eyes and at least acknowledge his awareness. Within another 5 minutes he was awake and talking. The doctor and the nurse in the room seemed shocked and they both said, this doesn't usually happen this way. He saw me standing near the bed and because he didn't know me he asked who I was. His wife, Hazel said "that is Pastor Dennis, Joanne was at his bible study when we took you in so he came and prayed for you." He motioned for me to come near the bed and when I got to him he took my hand, smiled and said, "You did your job."

I want to give all the glory to God and it is my prayer that He has been revealed to Leo, the Doctor, the nurse, and anyone else who encounters this touch of the almighty. I know I have been touched by God and once again my faith has grown. The mustard seed is getting bigger. Praise be to our God.