

Greater Work

by D.L. Moody

The sermon emphasizes the importance of preaching Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit in influencing people's lives.

Scripture: Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-20, John 14:12, John 15:26, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:36, Acts 2:40, Romans 1:16, 1 Corinthians 2:4-5, 2 Timothy 4:2

Topics: "Preaching Christ", "The Power of the Holy Spirit"

Description

D.L. Moody emphasizes the transformative power of the Holy Spirit in witnessing to Christ, asserting that the greater works Jesus spoke of refer to influencing and converting the hearts of sinful men rather than performing physical miracles. He reflects on the miracle of Pentecost, where Peter, empowered by the Spirit, preached to a hostile crowd, resulting in the conversion of thousands. Moody critiques modern preaching that obscures the message of the Cross and calls for a return to presenting Christ plainly and powerfully. He believes that when Christ is exalted in preaching, the Holy Spirit will confirm the message with signs and wonders. Ultimately, Moody urges believers to testify of Christ, as the world desperately needs the light He brings.

Transcript

The witness of the Spirit is the witness of power. Jesus said, "The works that I do shall ye do also, and greater works than these shall ye do because I go to the Father." I used to stumble over that. I didn't understand it. I thought, what greater work could any man do than Christ had done? How could any one raise a dead man who had been laid away in the sepulcher for days, and who had already begun to turn back to dust; how with a word could he call him forth? But the longer I live the more I am convinced it is a greater thing to influence a man's will; a man whose will is set against God; to have that will broken and brought into subjection to God's will - or, in other words, it is a greater thing to have power over a living, sinning, God hating man, than to quicken the dead. He who could create a world could speak a dead soul into life; but I think the greatest miracle this world has ever seen was the miracle at Pentecost. Here were men who surrounded the Apostles, full of prejudice, full of malice, full of bitterness, their hands, as it were, dripping with the blood of the Son of God, and yet an unlettered man, a man whom they detested, a man whom they hated, stands up there and preaches the Gospel, and three thousand of them are immediately convicted and converted, and become disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, and are willing to lay down their lives for the Son of God. It may have been on that occasion that Stephen was converted, the first martyr, and some of the men who soon after gave up their lives for Christ. This seems to me the greatest miracle

this world has ever seen. But Peter did not labor alone; the Spirit of God was with him; hence the marvelous results.

The Jewish law required that there should be two witnesses, and so we find that when Peter preached there was a second witness. Peter testified of Christ, and Christ says when the Holy Spirit comes He will testify of Me. And they both bore witness to the verities of our Lord's incarnation, ministry, death, and resurrection, and the result was that a multitude turned as with one heart unto the Lord. Our failure now is, that preachers ignore the Cross, and veil Christ with sapless sermons and superfine language. They don't just present Him to the people plainly, and that is why, I believe, that the Spirit of God don't work with power in our churches. What we need is to preach Christ and present Him to a perishing world. The world can get on very well without you and me, but the world can not get on without Christ, and therefore we must testify of Him, and the world, I believe, today is just hungering and thirsting for this divine, satisfying portion. Thousands and thousands are sitting in darkness, knowing not of this great Light, but when we begin to preach Christ honestly, faithfully, sincerely and truthfully; holding Him up, not ourselves; exalting Christ and not our theories; presenting Christ and not our opinions; advocating Christ and not some false doctrine; then the Holy Ghost will come and bear witness. He will testify that what we say is true. When He comes He will confirm the Word with signs following. This is one of the strongest proofs that our Gospel is Divine; that it is of Divine origin; that not only did Christ teach these things, but when leaving the World He said, "He shall glorify Me," and "He will testify of Me." If you will just look at the second chapter of Acts - to that wonderful sermon that Peter preached - the thirty-sixth verse, you read these words:

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made that same Jesus whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ."

And when Peter said this the Holy Ghost descended upon the people and testified of Christ - bore witness in signal demonstration that all this was true. And again, in the fortieth verse,

"And with many other words did He testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation."

With many other words did He testify, not only these words that have been recorded, but many other words.

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