

# Tokens of His Compassion - Part 4

by Leonard Ravenhill

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of authority in preaching, the need for spiritual preparation, and the role of the Holy Spirit in empowering believers.*

**Duration:** 8:57

**Scripture:** John 14:26

**Topics:** "Holy Spirit", "Gods Authority"

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## Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of anointing and authority in preaching, highlighting the need for God's power to be upon those who proclaim His message. It delves into Jesus' preparation and training for His ministry, focusing on His relationship with the Father and the significance of the Holy Spirit. The sermon also addresses the dangers of being entangled with the world and losing one's first love for God.

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## Transcript

...reputable ears of the Lord. And he closed the book and gave it to the minister and sat down and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fastened upon him. I don't wonder.

Well if the ungodly people said he speaks with authority and not as the scribes. Preaching can be as empty as beating a drum. A man needs authority.

Define it if you like as unction. Define it if you like as anointing. As the old color preacher says, I don't know what it is but I know when it isn't.

When I don't have it he said I know when I haven't had it. It's that mysterious something that God is pleased to put upon those who will travel and wait for that anointing. Without which preaching has no power and has no authority.

I'm going to read this again. The Spirit of the Lord. No, I'll read the first of 17 chapter 1. Chapter 17 verse 1. These words spake Jesus and lifted his eyes to heaven and said, Father.

I say when I heard my son Paul say the other day to someone he didn't know I was listening, say, my father. I felt such a joy. I know what kind of a son I have.

An anointed man, a preacher, a pioneer in one of the most difficult fields in South America. Doesn't look so old but he's been there about 25 years anyhow. Can you remember Isaiah looking up into the face of God

and saying, Father? Can you remember Jeremiah looking up into the face of God and saying, Father? Or any of those stalwart giants we think of? Take all of them if you like in Hebrews 11.

Any one of them ever called the creator of heaven and earth? Isaiah doesn't do it. He calls him the high and lofty one who inhabited eternity. He sits upon the circle of the earth.

He falls speechless before God. Here Jesus has come through this long, long period. I'll suggest to you tonight, disagree if you like, that right up to this point Jesus had been in training for what's coming.

As I say, would you like to read your own biography before you die, knowing it is accurate? That little fellow who sat there puzzling the high priests and the distinguished people there was possibly like some of the Jews that there are in New York today. And I have great admiration for them. There's a sect there, I don't know what they call them, Hasidic is it something? They wear flat hats and they have big black curls coming down to their shoulders.

And I understand every one of those men can recite the first five books of Moses. Isn't that right? Pardon? Oh, Hasidic. Thank you.

Now you got that straight. I don't know what it was, but it's straight. Can you imagine Jesus reciting all those books? Can you imagine him reading again about the Virgin should bear a child? Can you think of him reading through Isaiah 53? Who has believed our report? To whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? He should grow up before him as a tender plant.

He should be like a root out of a dry ground. There's no beauty about that. There's no beauty that we should desire him.

I say Jesus up to this time has been preparing for this awesome thing that lies ahead of him. We can break this chapter up into many areas, I don't want to do that. I want you to notice, if you will, when you read through John, I think about 33 times he mentions the world.

You know one of the tragedies of the world today is, the early church, the world couldn't get on with the early church, it can get on with us, we're not a thorn in its side, we don't cause it any trouble. If he displayed some of the power of God they might take some notice, but we don't do that. Ours is all theology, it's all paperwork.

I looked up these things today just to go quickly through them. In 1 Corinthians and chapter 1, the Apostle Paul talks about the wisdom of this world, which is foolishness with God. Do you think God's interested that we've got a thing floating up in the sky right now, a machine full of technology and it can spy on the Russians? Do you think that troubles God in eternity? The wisdom of the world is foolishness with God.

Friendship with the world is enmity against God. How friendly are you with the world? What secret society do you belong? Some of you guys Masons? Wesley used to kick the Masons around a lot. I clashed with one in Ireland, he said it's not a religion.

I said, well why do you go to a temple? They meet in a temple, who meets in a temple except the thought they go to worship? The wisdom of the world is foolishness with God. Friendship with the world is enmity with God. 1 Corinthians 7 says, the fashion of this world passeth away.

John in his first epistle says, if you love the world, the love of the Father isn't in you. You forfeit God's love as soon as you get fascinated with the love of the world. I read an article recently where the preacher was saying, you know, so many people lose their first love, that's not what the Bible says.

The Bible says, thou hast left thy first love, you don't lose it. I've got an old coat, it must have been 20 years, I lost it this week, boy was I upset. It's out of style, but it's good to me, keeps me warm.

I was glad when I found it. I lost it. But the address to the people there in the book of the Revelation is to people who left their first love.

Something else got them, and they gave all their consuming passion and desire to that one thing that they got hold of again. Love not the world, neither the things of the world. It's all about the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, which all belong to this world.

What I'm wanting to say now, really, which has been in the back of my mind for days, I haven't got hold of it as I should, I'm sure of that. Chapter 13, where Jesus introduces his disciples to the Lord's Supper. Then immediately he introduces them to the washing of feet, which has gone out with most people.

That's chapter 13. Chapter 14, in verse 26 he mentions there for the first time the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost. That always reminds me of my dear old teacher in England, old Samuel Chadwick.

He said, remember he's the Comforter, but he is not. These are his exact words, because I heard them say so many times, and I've quoted them many times since myself. The Comforter, which is, but the Comforter, the Holy Spirit is not a nursing mother to spiritually sick children.

That word Comforter in English, in Latin is *Comfortis*, K-U-M-dash-F-O-R-T-I-S, with strength. What did Jesus say? When the Holy Ghost is come, what, ye shall receive what? Power. In other words, you shall receive strength, the Holy Ghost coming upon you.

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