

The Life and Ministry of Jesus

by Zac Poonen

The anointing of the Holy Spirit is essential for effective ministry, and we must seek it with humility and repentance.

Scripture: Isaiah 50:4, Luke 24:32, Acts 1:1, Acts 10:38

Topics: "Anointing Of The Holy Spirit", "Ministry of Jesus"

Description

Zac Poonen emphasizes the necessity of the Holy Spirit's anointing in the life and ministry of Jesus, illustrating that Jesus went about doing good and healing those oppressed by the devil. He argues that just as Jesus needed the Spirit's anointing to fulfill His ministry, so do we, as members of the church, need this empowerment to effectively serve and minister to others. Poonen warns against a dry and lifeless ministry that lacks the Spirit's anointing, urging believers to seek and value this anointing to ensure their ministry is vibrant and impactful. He reminds us that Jesus continues His work through the church today, and we must not take our responsibility lightly, calling for repentance from self-sufficiency to embrace the Spirit's guidance.

Transcript

It is written about Jesus that "God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power". What was the result? "He went about DOING GOOD and HEALING (DELIVERING) ALL WHO WERE OPPRESSED BY THE DEVIL, for God was with Him." (Acts 10:38). The world around us is full of people who are suffering because Satan has oppressed and harassed and bound them in some way or the other. When God is with us, we will do what Jesus did - go around doing good to them and delivering them from Satan's bondage. It is impossible to do that without being anointed with the Holy Spirit. If Jesus Himself could not fulfil such a ministry without the anointing of the Spirit, how can we? When we see the baptism and the gifts of the Spirit in the context of Jesus' ministry, we can never go wrong. Jesus not only lived a holy life, He also had a ministry to others. He preached, healed the sick, cast out demons, and made disciples. We can never serve God effectively as His servants in the church if we are not anointed as Jesus was.

There are many who study the Word carefully and preach it accurately, but they don't have the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon them. Therefore their ministry is dry and dead. As servants of the new covenant, our preaching must always be in the power of the Spirit. Jesus was never dull or boring or stale at any time when He preached - because He was anointed. When we are anointed as He was, we too will never be dull or boring or stale. Instead, our ministry will be a refreshing blessing to everyone. When Jesus

preached the Word to the disciples who were walking to Emmaus, they testified that their hearts "burned within them" (Lk.24:32). That is how a truly anointed ministry is - it makes people's hearts burn. And that is how our ministry should be always. There must never be a time when we're not under the anointing of the Spirit. Then we will always have a word to give to those in need whom we come across, even as Jesus had (See Isa.50:4)

In Acts 1:1, it says that the gospel of Luke describes "all that Jesus BEGAN to do and to teach." So the Acts of the Apostles is a record of what Jesus CONTINUED to do and teach. In the gospels, we have the record of what Jesus did with His physical body. In the Acts we have the record of what He did with His spiritual Body. So the Acts of the Apostles is actually the acts of Jesus through the apostles. Jesus is not engaged in some other ministry on earth today, than what He did when he came to earth 2000 years ago. He is still "going around doing good and delivering all who are oppressed by the devil" - through the members of His spiritual Body, the church. And so it is an awesome responsibility that we have to be a servant of the Lord in His Body. Let us never take it lightly. If Jesus Who lived such a perfect life for 30 years needed to be anointed with the Holy Spirit before He began to serve the Father, how dare we engage in such a ministry without a similar anointing. If we have not been anointed by the Spirit as yet, it must be because we have not sought for it sufficiently. And if we have not sought for it, it is probably because we have not valued it sufficiently. And if we have not valued it, it must be because we have been self-sufficient. Let us repent then of our self-sufficiency - and allow God to circumcise our hearts of all self-confidence.

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