

KESSID SERMON NOTES



Sermon

"The Mind of God"

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Speaker

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As Luke's second volume opens, the church doesn't exist; the Holy Spirit has not yet come to reside in Christ's followers; the apostles possess no power, no courage, no authority or direction.

The Church is Birthed

- (Vs) Acts 1:1-5 – A lot happening here...
- (Vs) Acts 1:1-2, Take note of the word "began" - The work isn't finished. There's more to do...
- **Question:** *How would Jesus complete the work He "began"?*
- The answer is foreshadowed in the phrase...*"until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. (Acts 1:2)*

After rising from the dead, Jesus spent the next forty days consoling His followers.

- He Proved and He Prepared (Vs) Acts 1:3
- He presented Himself Alive – Proof
- He spoke about the Kingdom of God at Hand – Preparation

The "Proof" piece is rather easy to see...

- But the "Prepare" part often needs a bit more insight given...
- (Vs) Acts 1:4,5 – Preparation for the Holy Spirit
- A literal translation of the Lord's promise in Acts 1: 5 reads... *"You will be baptized into the Holy Spirit."*

By now, through John's ministry, Water Baptism had been well established.

- But here, Jesus is making preparation for an all-encompassing Paradigm Shift.

Baptism History

- People of ancient cultures understood the significance of this symbolic rite of baptism...

The ritual of baptism in ancient cultures symbolized identification. An organization or society initiated a new member by immersing him or her in a liquid of some kind – usually water, or in the case of many pagan rituals, the blood of sacrificed animals. So, when one was “baptized into” a community, he or she became one with it and, therefore, identified with it. After an initiate had been immersed into something and surrounded by it, he or she emerged from the pool soaked and dripping – covered, as it were, in the same substance as all the other members. After being “baptized into” a society, the initiate was considered both a member and a representative of the community's beliefs. A person “baptized into” a society, therefore, received everything that goes along with membership: rights, benefits, powers, and responsibilities. -Charles R. Swindoll

Generations earlier, the Lord had said this very thing would happen...

- (Vs) *Jer. 31: 31–34; Ezek. 37:14*

God had revealed that a new kind of kingdom would emerge from the new covenant, which required every citizen to have “The Mind of God”

- From the beginning of time, He planned to give His people the power to carry out His commands as citizens of His kingdom...
- He granted them power. He didn't outline a program.

He didn't give them a detailed strategy...

- Such a thing wouldn't stand the test of time, as we observe in the business world. Rather than set down a specific business model, God gave each member of the organization the mind of the CEO.
- Starting with John the Baptizer's filling of the Holy Spirit. - (Vs) *Luke 1:15*

Jesus now says...This is happening to all of you... The Mind of God is coming upon you... - “*You will be baptized into the Holy Spirit.*”

- It is only after this time of Proving and Preparation did Jesus finally Ascend...
- (Vs) *Acts 1:9-11* - The Ascension of Christ

After this everyone went back and waited together... 120 in total.

- While waiting they decided to choose a new Apostle – Matthias. But listen how!
- (Vs) *Acts 1:21–26* - Casting Lots for Callings...This verse in Acts paints a curious picture of the fellowship of believers before the church was launched – an almost forgotten image of the Church congregation prior to the arrival of the Holy Spirit.
- The apostles remained huddled in a room, waiting for marching orders from the Lord, unable to make a decision without specific physical indicators of His will.
- This is a timid, fearful, uncertain group of believers groping for direction... and all just a few days before the Holy Spirit took over.
- Reminds me in many ways of the Christian Church Life we see today.

But for these first Century Christians that life was about to change...

- (Vs) Acts 2:1–8 - The Mind of God arrives...
- The Paradigm Shift had occurred... Relationship is happening!

Yet... in the end... We are left here with an interesting New Picture...

- (Vs) Acts 2:12,13; *This is to remind all of us that some will accept and "Know" The Mind of God and some will Reject Him...*

What do you "Know" today?

- *Will you run on a program or God's power?*
- *Will we trust the Holy Spirit to speak through us?*
- *Our job is to lean into the Mind of God and do what he asks us to do!*