

## **"HOLDING ALL THE POWER"**

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**Speaker:** Danny Clinton



### **Today I want to talk with you about Power...**

- It's well known that at some level everyone desires it... often causing harm!

**"I put for the general inclination of all mankind, a perpetual and restless desire of power after power, that ceaseth only in death." – Thomas Hobbes**

### **Question: How does the power of Christ effect a person?**

- Let's look a bit deeper at how Jesus' power impacted those around Him...

### **When Joseph finds out from his betrothed, Mary, that she is going to have a Miracle Child from the Holy Spirit...**

- His first response was disbelief...

*(Vs) Matt. 1:18,19 – "Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly."*

### **Some people will encounter the power of Christ and immediately deny it.**

- I'd say this is perhaps the most common response to encountering God's power...
- "This can't be." "This doesn't fit in with my plans, dreams or desires..."
- Eventually an Angel comes to Joseph and shares who this miraculous child is and is to become... and says to name Him Jesus...

*(Vs) Matt. 1:24-25 says... "When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus."*

**Curious: We know that when people are in denial, it's often the naming of a thing that makes it real... (This also is why we confess our sins to one another.)**

- I've wondered sometimes even though Joseph did all the right things, if at some level he was still in denial, maybe even right up until that moment of naming...
- What if perhaps giving the name God asked him to is the final affirmation of his own belief about the power within this child?

**Confirmation 40 days after His birth...**

- *(Vs) Luke 2:25-32 - "Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon..."* Some people will encounter the power of Christ and be deeply fulfilled.
- Because of this, Simeon has been known as the 'Godreceiver.'

**Then, 2 years or so after Jesus is born, an Angel tells Joseph and Mary to leave Bethlehem for Egypt...**

- This is because of King Herod who was a Roman client *King* of Judea.
- He's another lesson on how the power of Christ effects people.

*(Vs) Matt 2:16 - "Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men."*

**Some people will encounter the power of Christ and feel utterly powerless.**

- They can't stand not being in control, so they attack and assault!

**I think each of these encounters and their corresponding responses speak to just a few ways that encountering the power of Christ can, and does, affect a person...**

- But, I think each of these, and frankly all others mentioned in the Bible, pale significantly when considered alongside another person's encounter with the Power of Christ.

**And that person is Mary the Mother of Jesus...**

*(Vs) Luke 2:7 - "And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."*

- Consider: No one would have spent more time, or had more conversations with Jesus than His mother.
- Night after night, holding the most powerful being that has ever existed...

- And perhaps the most profound part would be that she knew it. Every time she wiped His face, or put Him down for a nap, etc....
- ... Prince of Peace, Mighty One, Wonderful Counselor!

**From this perspective we can comfortably say that, “No human being has ever held more power than Mary did.”**

- So how did this affect her?
- How did she see herself in relation to this power she knew better than all others?

**There’s a wonderful story that I believe teaches just that, how Mary was impacted by Christ’s power...**

- But I want to give you just a bit more context first...
- We know somewhere in Jesus’ early life; His father Joseph dies.
- We know He was older than 12, because of the story of His time at the temple, and that it mentioned Joseph was present, but then it never mentions him again.
- We also know Jesus spent enough time with His earthly father to learn His trade, of Carpentry.
- So from here on out, it’s just Mary and her children, including Jesus.

**So, here’s my question for context... If you knew the power Jesus had, if you knew who He was, would you not ask, beg and plead for Him to save your husband, the father to your children, Jesus’ own earthly father?**

- Of course, you would!
- And yet, it appears in spite of these possible requests... He doesn’t do it.
- How do you reconcile that?

**“What does it mean when God lives in your house and yet refuses to help how you want?”**

- With all that in mind, let’s fast-forward a few years...
- Many of us know that Jesus was about 30 years old when He began His earthly ministry.
- He announced this to the world with a miracle... “Water into Wine.” Do you remember why?
- When I’ve asked others about this, it’s most often mentioned that He did this miracle at the request of His mother Mary...
- In this way, she is the ignition point of Jesus’ earthly ministry... *(Vs) John 2:1-11 – “On the third day there was a wedding at Cana...”*

**It is important to note that Mary never specifically asks Jesus to make wine, but simply states the situation...**

- It appears that in spite of Jesus NOT answering her every request (i.e. Josephs death), she still remains faithful. Perhaps she learned not to ask for only what she wanted, instead... She came with the problem and trusted Him with the solution.
- She confidently brings her concern to Him and then says to others they should obey whatever He says... (Vs) *John 2:5b - "Do whatever He tells you."*

**These are last recorded words of Mary in the Bible...**

- The last words from a person who knew she held all the power there ever was.
- And so, to me, it seems that once Mary got her arms around Jesus, she refused to hold onto anything else; even when she didn't like the answers.
- **In this way, Mary reminds us that...**

**"Some people will encounter the power of Christ and choose to forever cling to it with all that they are."**
- It's inside this action that all the others lie, teaching us that you can cling to the power of Christ when you are in denial, finding great fulfillment, or when you yourself feel powerless...

*(Vs) Joshua 23:8 NLT - "Rather, cling tightly to the Lord your God as you have done until now."*

- Choose to cling to Christ's Power, and so Decorate the Darkness around you.