

## The Great Pause of the Greatest Organization

The Great Pause – Pt. 3

January 16, 2022

**INTRO** ...Last Week's "The Great Pause of the Greatest Man"

With that fullness the Holy Spirit led him into solitude for forty days. He went away from family and friends and crowds and lived in the desert for forty days. That's almost six weeks. No radio. No television. No computers. No billboards. And this wasn't the only time: Luke 5:16 shows that other times Jesus went away alone. It must be that preparation for ministry demands significant times of solitude. We simply can't maintain a radical God-centeredness under an unbroken barrage of human interaction. The depth and value of what you bring in your heart to other people will depend on what you do with your solitude. ...I urge all of you to find a pattern of personal solitude." **John Piper**, "Christ in Combat: Defense by the Spirit"

...Jesus Pause at the Inauguration of His Ministry ...is valuable in informing Our Moment of Ministry Launch!

**Matt 3:13-17** ...Jesus Baptism

...This Transition Moment is Filled with Significantly Featured Items—that we would do well to take note of!

- **a Baptism**
- **An Anointing** (a Divine Empowerment for This Hour!)

...Whatever we know of Jesus life up to this moment—THIS Coming of the Spirit is a **DISTINCT MARKER** of this moment and of the days going forward!

- **He highlights it for his own mission & ministry—This is "Empowerment for a Purpose"!!**

**Luke 4:16-19** And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

- **He anticipates it for our mission & ministry—It is Connected to Power & Purpose**

**Luke 24:49** And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

- **A Divine Endorsement!** ...there is a need for an abiding awareness that God is In This Chapter with us!!  
"This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased" (Matt 3:15) "Go into all the world and make disciples ...and behold I am with you always until the end of the age" (Matt 28:18-20)

...All of These are MISSION ESSENTIALS!! ...It is Essential that WE as Christians on God's Mission have been MARKED & INFORMED by the Elements of This Great Pause!! ...Your Baptism ...Your Anointing ...Your Awareness of His Abiding Presence

## A Pause for Power

**Acts 1:4-5, 8** And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; <sup>7</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ... <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

### (1) A Focus on "POWER"

*...It takes some sort of power to do life!*

— People (in general) have some sources of power in their lives. ...They have "**Physical Power**"  
... "**Functional Power**" ... "**Influential Power**" ... "**Economic Power**" ...  
**Governmental Power and Military Power**

...These sorts of Power Exist before Acts 1:8 (as well as Luke 4) ...What Kind of Power is Jesus Referring to (and receiving Himself)? ...How Essential is THIS Sort of Power? ...Can we use these other "Powers" as a substitute?

### (2) The Mystery of Power

"Exousia" (Gk.) = a word of 'Authority' that is linked to 'Power' => "the right to exercise Power" (Translated 29 times as "power" in the N.T.)

#### Matt 28:18-19

...Jesus Earthly Ministry was the Demonstration of His Authority Over Creation! ...from the physical universe of water into wine and storms that obey ...to physical life and health (He healed the sick and raised the dead) ...to His authority over demonic beings ...to His teaching ("as one who had authority")

... "**the keys to the Kingdom**"

**Matt 16:13-19** Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup> And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

... It's as though Matt 28 is Jesus saying, "I have the keys to the kingdom ...and I'm going to give them to you!!" (Lk 24!!)

*...there is some level of "other-world-influence" in this "exousia" —it is the concept being chased by literature & movies ...*

— *Clearly, the Christian Life is NOT merely the "Jacking Up of The Other Powers"! ...It is the receiving and making use of the Power Spoken of in Lk 24 and Acts 1:8*

"He begins by speaking to them about His own power — "All power is given to Me in Heaven and on earth." We are not fit to go out to work for Christ till we truly know Him, ourselves, and also know something of the Divine power which He is prepared to give to us. It is well for us to learn the lesson, ourselves, before we attempt to teach it to others." **Charles Spurgeon**

### (3) A Warning about Power

*How Does Lk 4 & Acts 1:8 fair ...in the age of "Science and Human Natural Ability" ???*

...Beware, the Bible warns of this and that it is actually disconnected from something essential to our lives.

#### 1Cor 2 ...Paul's Contrast of Power Source

— Warning to a Younger Generation

— Warning to Us All: *There is less and less mystery and other-worldly invasion in our version of Christianity!*

Here's Jesus Train of Thought: Matt 28:18-19 (*He has all "power/authority" ...therefore go and make disciples, go and teach them*) ...*BUT, wait for a particular source of power to be transferred to you! (Lk 24, Acts 1) ..ie, You Can't Impart the Kingdom, Teach with Spiritual Effectiveness, and Bring Forth Disciples without THIS POWER!!* ...*Kingdom Preaching & Teaching has a Mysterious Power attached to them that brings "revelation", "blindness removed", "enlightenment", "new birth", "faith", "courage", "burden", "conviction", "the love of God shed abroad in our hearts", etc.*

So... Let us Pause and Ponder How We Will Pursue THIS Power, Welcome THIS Power, and Learn to WIELD This Power in Our Next Chapter! ...the "Stuff" of Chapter 2022 Requires "Keys" to Unlock Bound Up Things and to Invade these Spaces of Our Lives with POWER!