

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: How to Do the Impossible

SERMON REFERENCE: John 14:12, 16-18

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2409

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1) INTRODUCTION

a) John 14:12

- i) How many of us equal or exceed the works of Jesus?
- ii) Jesus said that if we believe in Him, then the works that He does we will do and greater works.
- iii) What we need to do is to take this verse and not bring it down to our experience, but to bring our experience up to this verse.
 - (1) Rather than trying to dumb this verse down, let's pump ourselves up with spiritual power and do what God wants us to do because most of us are unbelieving believers.
- iv) What He is telling us to do, on the surface, seems impossible.
 - (1) The impossible becomes possible by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit of God.

b) We can, should, and will, not only equal, but exceed the works of Jesus Christ if we understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit of God.

c) John 14:16-18

- i) The word "Comforter" in verse 16 refers to a person.
- ii) When Jesus said, "I will come to you," He was not talking about the second coming of Jesus Christ.
 - (1) He was talking about the coming of the Holy Spirit into our lives.
 - (2) When the Holy Spirit comes, Jesus said that He Himself was the one who was coming.
 - (a) Christ and the Holy Spirit cannot be separated.
 - (3) One of the best definitions of the Holy Spirit is Christ in the Christian.
 - (a) He is to abide in the Christian.
- iii) The word "abide" in John 14:16 means "to settle down permanently."
 - (1) It has been said that our hearts are not hotels with check-out times at noon on Sunday.
 - (a) When the Holy Spirit comes, He comes to live in us and to abide in us.

d) John 14:18

- i) The word "comfortless" here literally means "helpless orphans."
 - (1) We are not going to be like a child whose parents have deceased.
 - (2) Jesus is not going to just turn us loose.
- ii) He is coming to dwell with us permanently.

e) John 14:12

- i) This promise is made possible by the coming of the Holy Spirit of God.

f) In today's message, we will learn why the Holy Spirit of God has come and why we should not only equal but exceed the works of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2) THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME TO PRODUCE THE WORKS OF JESUS

a) John 14:16

- i) In this verse, the emphasis is on the word "another."
 - (1) In the Greek language, there are two words for "another."

- (a) One word means “another of a different kind.”
 - (b) The other word means “another of the same kind.”
 - (i) This is the word that Jesus used here.
- ii) When Jesus said that He will send us another Comforter, He was not saying another of a different kind.
 - (1) He was saying that we would receive someone just like Him.
 - (a) John 14:18
 - (2) When the Holy Spirit comes, who is coming: Jesus or the Holy Spirit?
 - (a) Both, there is no distinction.
- b) The Holy Spirit is Christ in the Christian.
 - i) This is why Jesus said that the works that He does, we shall do.
 - (1) John 14:12
 - (2) Jesus will still be doing them.
- c) There was a book called *What Would Jesus Do?* that implied that people should do what Jesus would do if He were here.
 - i) The sentiment of this is good, and there is a sense in which we all ought to do this.
 - ii) But philosophically, there are some problems with this.
 - (1) It implies that we would know what Jesus would do.
 - (a) Jesus will surprise us.
 - (i) He was always surprising people.
 - (b) We cannot determine or figure out what Jesus will do.
 - (2) It presupposes that if we knew what Jesus would do, then we could do it.
 - (a) No one can be Jesus but Jesus.
 - (b) If we determine what Jesus would do, then we wouldn't get it right all the time.
 - (i) If we did have it right, then we would be cheap imitations of Jesus, stumbling around trying to do what Jesus would do.
 - (3) Another problem is that Jesus is here.
 - (a) He is not way off beyond the blue peering down through the clouds telling us to work it out.
 - (i) He says that He will come to us.
 - 1. He will abide in us now.
 - d) The Christian life is not lived by us.
 - i) It is lived by Jesus.
 - (1) There is only one person who has ever lived the Christian life, and His name is Jesus.
 - ii) If it is lived where we live, then it will be Jesus Christ living that life in us.
 - (1) That is the secret.
 - (2) He is here to do what needs to be done.
 - (3) John 14:12
 - (a) He is the one producing those works in us.
 - e) It is better that Jesus went back to Heaven and sent the Holy Spirit.

- i) We have an advantage over Peter, Paul, James, etc.
 - (1) We don't intellectually believe this, but it is true.
 - ii) John 16:7
 - (1) In this verse, the word "expedient" means that it is "better" or "necessary."
 - iii) If Jesus had stayed here, then we wouldn't have the blessing of the Father, which is the Holy Spirit.
 - (1) Not only Jesus with us, but Jesus in us; abiding in us forever.
 - (a) That is better.
 - iv) When Lazarus died, Martha and Mary scolded Jesus for not being there.
 - (1) John 11:21
 - (2) John 11:32
 - (3) Jesus was not there because He was somewhere else.
 - (a) In Bible times, when Jesus was with one person, then He wasn't with another person.
 - (b) In His flesh, He was in one place at one time.
 - v) Because He has gone to Heaven and sent the Holy Spirit, Jesus is with us everywhere we go.
 - (1) Never will any Christian ever have to say, "Lord, if You had only been here."
 - f) In a Christian, Christ is living on this Earth.
 - i) Jesus Christ is the invisible part of the visible Christian.
 - (1) He is in us.
 - ii) We are the visible part of the invisible Christ.
 - g) When we discover the fullness and the power of the Holy Spirit, then we will know that living the Christian life is wonderful.
 - h) The Holy Spirit of God came to produce the works of Jesus.
 - i) It is Christ in us now living the Christian life.
 - (1) If we don't learn this, then we will have a difficult time in our Christian life.
- 3) THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME TO PROTECT THE WILL OF JESUS
- a) We are not our own; we belong to Christ.
 - b) John 14:26
 - i) The Greek word for "Comforter" here is a word for "lawyer."
 - (1) In 1 John 2:1, the same word is translated "advocate."
 - ii) This verse has been translated, "Whom the Father will send to represent Me."
 - c) A lawyer protects our rights, defends us, and stands up for us and our will.
 - d) The Holy Spirit protects the will of Christ.
 - i) He represents the Lord Jesus Christ in us.
 - e) In the Old Testament, there were families who lived together in clans.
 - i) They would have a lawyer or an advocate.

- ii) In tribal disputes, the lawyer would plead the family cause, guard the family name, and protect the family's interests.
 - (1) That is what the Holy Spirit of God has come to do in us.
 - f) The Holy Spirit pleads the cause of Jesus, guards the name of Jesus, and protects the interests of Jesus in our hearts.
 - i) Jesus is our advocate, but the Holy Spirit is Jesus' advocate.
 - ii) The Holy Spirit of God is the advocate that lives in us to protect the rights, the privileges, and the will of the Lord Jesus Christ in us.
 - (1) He protects Jesus' rights.
 - g) Jesus is our advocate, protecting our rights before the throne.
 - i) 1 John 2:1
 - ii) Satan is like a prosecuting attorney.
 - (1) He points out how we fail and how we ought to be condemned.
 - iii) Jesus makes intercession for us.
 - h) The Holy Spirit makes intercession for Jesus.
 - i) The Holy Spirit represents Jesus' rights in our lives.
 - (1) He does this through conviction.
 - (a) Have you ever done something that you ought not to do, and the Holy Spirit blew the whistle in your life?
 - (b) Have you ever felt someone speaking to you, telling you that you are wrong and that you ought not to act that way?
 - (i) That is the Holy Spirit protecting the will of Jesus.
 - i) To do the impossible:
 - i) We receive the Holy Spirit of God when we receive Jesus.
 - (1) He is there to produce the works of Christ.
 - (2) He is there to protect the will of Christ.
- 4) THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME TO ENABLE US TO PERCEIVE THE WORDS OF JESUS
 - a) We need to understand Jesus.
 - b) The Holy Spirit helps us perceive His Word.
 - i) John 14:26
 - ii) John 16:12-13
 - c) We can perceive the words of Christ because the Holy Spirit of God is our teacher who is living in us (those who are saved) to help us understand things we cannot understand.
 - d) 1 Corinthians 2:9
 - i) There are spiritual truths that we don't get through reading and observation.
 - ii) There are certain things that we do not get through hearing or auditory means.
 - iii) There are certain things that we do not conjure up emotionally.
 - e) 1 Corinthians 2:10-14
 - i) No one knows us like we know ourselves.

- ii) Only God knows God.
 - iii) God has taken the Holy Spirit and put Him in us.
 - (1) That is how we can understand God.
 - iv) “Natural man” in verse 14 means “a man apart from Christ.”
 - f) The natural man cannot know the things of God apart from the Spirit of God.
 - i) The only way that we can know and understand is to have the Holy Spirit of God in us.
 - g) John 16:14
 - i) We know things that the world cannot know because we have the Holy Spirit of God.
- 5) THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME TO PROMOTE THE WORSHIP OF JESUS
- a) John 16:14
 - b) The Holy Spirit of God in us glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - c) The mark of the Spirit-filled person is that he glorifies Jesus Christ.
 - d) Beware of any movement that has the Holy Spirit for a figurehead.
 - i) This is not meant to denigrate the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
 - ii) Some ministries say that if a person has Jesus, then they need to move on to the Holy Spirit.
 - (1) They talk about a second blessing.
 - (a) The second blessing is actually discovering what we have in the first blessing when we received Jesus.
 - (i) We can go deeper into Jesus, but we will never go beyond Jesus.
 - iii) If a parade is being led by the Holy Spirit, then there is something wrong.
 - (1) If the Holy Spirit is standing on the sidelines pointing to Jesus leading the parade, then there is something right.
 - e) Jesus is glorified by the Spirit of God.
 - i) A Spirit-filled person and a Spirit-filled church will make much of Jesus Christ.
 - ii) The Spirit has come to promote the worship of Jesus.
 - iii) This is the key to being filled and staying filled.
 - f) Some people want to be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to be great preachers, soul winners, or to live a holy life.
 - i) God is not interested in that.
 - (1) He wants Jesus Christ to be glorified in our lives.
 - ii) These are subsets of the main thing, which is the glory of Jesus Christ.
 - g) John 16:13
 - i) The Holy Spirit will not speak of Himself.
 - (1) The Holy Spirit is not the origin of His own teaching.
 - ii) He takes the things of Jesus and shows them to us.
 - (1) He will teach us these things.
 - h) The Lord intended for us to equal or exceed what He has done.
 - i) All of the miracles that Jesus Christ did only typified and portrayed the miracles of grace.

- ii) Churches today would be crowded if people were being healed physically.
 - (1) Many times after Jesus healed someone, He would tell them not to tell others about it.
 - (2) At the Pool of Bethesda, many were sick.
 - (a) Jesus chose one man and healed that one man.
 - (b) He didn't heal everyone.
 - (c) John 5:3-9
 - (3) We have a world today full of miracle-mongers who want everyone to be healed because they think that is so great.
- iii) But suppose a twelve-year-old child wanted to give his or her heart to Christ.
 - (1) The greater miracle would be that child giving her heart to Christ rather than someone in a wheelchair being healed.
 - (a) For Jesus to heal the sick, all He had to do was just simply say to be healed.
 - (b) But to save that child, Jesus died in agony and blood.
 - (i) His blood was shed to save a soul.
 - 1. That is the greater miracle.
- iv) We exceed the works of Jesus when we take the Gospel around the world by the power of the Holy Spirit of God.

6) CONCLUSION

- a) Ask the Holy Spirit of God to do a fresh work in you.
 - i) Ask that He would renew and refresh you.
 - ii) Ask that you might equal and exceed the works of Jesus, not in quality but in quantity.
- b) You cannot have the gift of the Holy Spirit without the Giver, whose name is Jesus.
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16