

The church of power

Outline

The story of healing

The story as a catalyst for the proclamation of the gospel

Jesus our focus

Conclusion

What makes the church the church of power?

Is it this one here – slide 1/2

This one – slide 3

Or this –slide 4

I hope by the end of this sermon we can understand together what it means to be a church of power.

The passage begins with a story of healing, Peter and John went to the temple gate there was a man who was crippled. He was begging for money. Peter looked at him and said silver and gold have I none but what I have I give you, what did he have?

He had something superior to silver and gold,

He had something that will change his life

Peter had something that will set the man free.

.

.

He said In the name of Jesus get up and walk.

He had Jesus, the living glorified saviour abiding in him and through the promised Spirit of God the man was healed.

Story-It is related that Thomas Aquinas came to Rome and visited Innocent IV. He looked somewhat amazedly upon the mass of plate and treasure which he saw there. So, said the pope, you see, Thomas, we cannot say as did St. Peter of old, 'Silver and gold have I none.' No, said Aquinas, neither can you command, as did he, the lame man to arise and walk. Peter had that which the popes have not. I am not saying that silver and gold is bad but it is not the source of the church's authority.

The man was instantaneously healed he went around shouting and screaming and praising God.

Now that is a fantastic story of healing in the New Testament but what happens next is even more fantastic it was an opportunity

To proclaims Jesus

Look at this picture – **slide 5**

What I like about this picture is the crowd, a great opportunity to proclaim Jesus

- **After the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, what did Peter do? He proclaimed the promise, the death and the resurrection of Jesus. You can read it Acts 2:17-24**

Acts 2:22 *"Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know-*

But God raised him from the dead freeing him from the agony of death. Because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him (Acts 2:24).

- And after the beggar was healed, what did Peter do? You guessed it right, he proclaimed Jesus as healer and the resurrected Lord

Acts 3:15: *You killed the author of life but God raised him from the death*

Acts 3:16: "And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

The church became a church of power when the promised Spirit came upon church but at the same time it became a witnessing church

Slide 6

The church that derives power from Jesus, is build on Jesus, it manifest Jesus, it cannot but proclaim Jesus.

This is an inseparable truth, the church cannot claim to be a church of power if it does not witness Jesus.

Many years ago we were working in village in Malaysia, around 11am at night we received a distress call from one of the villagers. We rushed to the village, and was invited to one of the homes, we entered the house and we saw a woman writhing on the floor like a snake. By then a small crowd has gathered outside the house, the other pastor and I knew that this was a demonic manifestation. We prayed and then I looked at the woman still writhing on the floor and said in Jesus name come out of here and at that very moment she stopped writhing and regained her composure. The people outside the house and inside heard it, the heard the name of Jesus and they saw the woman recover. It was a golden opportunity for the proclamation of the gospel message. The whole family came to Christ and others in the village came to believe in Jesus. The man later became an elder in the church and God was glorified through the name of Jesus

In many areas of the world the church has become powerless,
It is because Jesus is not the source of power,
There is so much emphasis on religious correctness that evangelism has been sacrificed at the altar of multi faith dialogue.
There is so much emphasis on wealth gathering that we forget the source of our power.
The death and resurrection is denied.
The church does everything else except pray and seek the source of its power
.

Ask yourself these questions

Are you experiencing Jesus in your life or has he become a guest in your life.
When did you experience a work of God in your life that gave you an opportunity to proclaim Christ?