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Message: Christ Commissions His Church to Speak with His Authority

Text: Luke 9:1-6

Introduction

A. The word “Christ” transliterates the Greek word “christos” meaning “anointed one” and translates the Hebrew word “mashiach” which also means “anointed one” and which we transliterate “messiah.” God had his prophet Samuel anoint Saul as Israel’s first king, anointed one, mashiach/messiah, then David. But God through His prophets promised that one day He would raise up a descendent of David to be His Messiah/King over His kingdom, a king and kingdom that would never fail, but supplant forever the kingdom of this world.

B. That promised king, Messiah, Christ, was Jesus, the son of Mary, as God’s angel spoke to her while she was yet a virgin ...

Luke 1:31 "And behold, **you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.**³² "He will be great and will be called the **Son of the Most High;** and **the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;**³³ and **He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.**"

C. When would this promised king and kingdom be at hand? God raised up John the Baptist as a prophet to go before Jesus, the Messiah, saying what no prior prophet could declare, “the kingdom of God is at hand.” Until the second person of the Trinity took on human flesh and was born as the seed of David, the promised King and His kingdom was not at hand.

Matthew 3:1 Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ² **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."**

D. Jesus would continue to preach this gospel, this good news of God’s promised kingdom ...

Mark 1:14 Now after John had been taken into custody, **Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God,**¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and **the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.**"

Luke 8:1 Soon afterwards, He *began* going around from one city and village to another, **proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God.** The twelve were with Him,

E. All of the miracles Jesus has performed up to this point, which He inspired Luke to record for our benefit, have pointed to Jesus’s identity as the Son of the Most High God, as God’s promised Messiah/King, Whose power and authority were encroaching upon the kingdom of this world, which He is replacing. He has demonstrated His kingly power and authority over nature, over disease, death, demons, and over the devil, under whose power the whole world lies (1 Jn 5:19). The 12 He chose to be His apostles were with Him

during this time to witness and to bear witness to His authority and power.

- F. In chapter 9 we see that Jesus now delegates His authority and power to these apostles who would proclaim Him as the foundation of God's church and King over God's kingdom forever.

I. 9:1-2,6 Christ commissions His church to speak with His authority.

Luke 9:1 And He called the twelve together, and **gave them power and authority** over all the demons and to heal diseases.² And **He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God** and to perform healing. ...⁶ Departing, they *began* going throughout the villages, **preaching the gospel** and healing everywhere.

- A. Christ has delegated to His church to be His prophetic voice to the world. We speak His Word with His authority on behalf of the Lord of all creation.

1 Timothy 3:15 but in case I am delayed, *I write* so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in **the household of God**, which is **the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.**

- B. Therefore, we ought to speak with boldness and not be ashamed.

Luke 9:26 "For **whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him** when He comes in His glory, and *the glory* of the Father and of the holy angels.

1 Peter 4:16 but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, **he is not to be ashamed**, but is to glorify God in this name.

- C. Example of failure of nationally prominent and respected Southern Baptist evangelical on CBS.

Psalms 119:43 And **do not take the word of truth utterly out of my mouth**, for I wait for Your ordinances. ...⁴⁶ **I will also speak of Your testimonies before kings and shall not be ashamed.**

- D. Christ will supply boldness by His Spirit to those who seek His grace to speak as they ought to speak.

Luke 12:11 "When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say;¹² for **the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.**"

2 Timothy 1:8 Therefore **do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord** or of me

His prisoner, but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel **according to the power of God,**

- E. Therefore, God's Word encourages us to pray for ourselves and for one another's boldness to speak of Christ as we ought to speak.

Acts 4:27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.²⁹ "And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and **grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence,**³⁰ while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus."³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.**

Ephesians 6:19 and **pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,**²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; **that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**

II. 9:3-4 Christ's church is responsible to support those charged with the gospel ministry.

Luke 9:3 And He said to them, "Take nothing for *your* journey, neither a staff, nor a bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not *even* have two tunics apiece."⁴ **Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that city.**

- A. Christ's disciples are to travel light, trusting in the Lord's provision, and in Luke 22:35 they testify that they lacked nothing. Though we are always to trust in God's provision, these specific instructions are not necessarily to be a paradigm for all missionary/evangelistic ventures, since Jesus in Luke 22:36,37 warns of increasing hostility and changes His instructions.

Luke 22:35 And He said to them, "**When I sent you out without money belt and bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, did you?**" They said, "*No, nothing.*"³⁶ And He said to them, "But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one."³⁷ "For I tell you that this which is written must be fulfilled in Me, 'AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH TRANSGRESSORS'; for that which refers to Me has *its* fulfillment."

- B. The disciples were not to go begging from house to house as was the practice of with pagan philosophers, but were to be supported by believers (persons of peace), by those who received them and their word. The parallel account in Matthew makes this clear, as well as Jesus's similar instructions in chapter 10.

Matthew 10:11 "And whatever city or village you enter, inquire **who is worthy** in it, and

stay at his house until you leave *that city*.¹² "As you enter the house, give it your greeting.¹³ "If the house is worthy, give it your *blessing of peace*. But if it is not worthy, take back your *blessing of peace*.¹⁴ "Whoever does not **receive you**, nor **heed your words**, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet.

Luke 10:5 "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace *be* to this house.'⁶ "If **a man of peace** is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you.⁷ "Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for **the laborer is worthy of his wages**. Do not keep moving from house to house.

1. A person who Jesus calls "worthy" and a "man of peace is one who receives Christ's messengers and heeds Christ's word from their lips, I.e., true believers. It is the believers in Christ who are to be supporting the proclamation of the word of Christ. Christ's laborers who proclaim His word are to be supported by Christ's people.

1 Corinthians 9:14 So also **the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel**.

Galatians 6:6 **The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches**.

2. In the 20 year period from 1998 through 2017, TRB has expended about 1.3 million dollars in support of international missions. We could have built a nice educational building with that money, but we would have been a much poorer church had we kept that money for ourselves. I am not saying it is always selfish to invest in local infrastructure. What I am saying is that in our case, with God raising up during these years so many among us to send to the nations, we had our priorities synchronized with Christ's.

3 John 1:5 Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially *when they are* strangers;⁶ and they have testified to your love before the church. **You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God**.⁷ For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles.⁸ Therefore **we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth**.

III. 9:5-6 The gospel message is presently separating humanity into two groups - one of His blessing leading to eternal life and one of His condemnation leading to eternal death.

Luke 9:5 "And **as for those who do not receive you, as you go out from that city, shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them**."⁶ Departing, they *began* going throughout the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

- A. To reject the word of Christ's apostles is to reject Christ, His word, and the Father who sent

Him.

Luke 10:16 "The one who listens to you listens to Me, and **the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me.**"

- B. Devout Jews traveling through Gentile territory would, upon entering Israel, shake off the "unclean" dust from their sandals. Jesus commands His apostles to signify that those who reject their words are regarded by God as unclean, excluded from the people and kingdom of God.

Acts 13:50 But the Jews incited the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.⁵¹ **But they shook off the dust of their feet against them** and went to Iconium.

- C. Jesus, by the proclaiming of the gospel of His kingdom, is separating humanity into two kingdoms with two eternal destinies - the kingdom of this world destined for eternal shame and destruction and the kingdom of God destined for eternal life and glory. John the Baptist expected the Messiah to come with the judgment and immediate destruction of unbelievers, and the final establishment of God's eternal kingdom.

1. But Jesus's parable of the soils in Luke 8 reveals a "mystery of the kingdom" to His disciples according to verse 10, the mystery of how God's kingdom and Messiah would come. Luke 8:10 And He said, "**To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God**, but to the rest *it is* in parables, so that SEEING THEY MAY NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND.

2. The mystery is that the kingdom would begin small, not big, and that Jesus would come separating unbelievers from believers, not with sword swinging, but with seed sowing - the seed of His word. The response to Christ's word separates unbelievers from inheriting God's kingdom, destining them for His wrath. There is no wasted witness - God's Word will accomplish its purpose to either save or condemn.

John 12:48 "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; **the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.**

Ezekiel 2:5 "As for them, **whether they listen or not--** for they are a rebellious house-- **they will know that a prophet has been among them.**

Hebrews 4:12 For **the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword**, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and **able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**

2 Corinthians 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.¹⁵ For **we**

are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; ¹⁶ to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?

Conclusion

- A. The good news/gospel of the kingdom of God is that heaven's King has come in the person of the Son of the Most High God, Jesus Messiah. His kingdom is encroaching upon the kingdom of this world and will replace it completely and forever when Jesus returns in the glory of His Father to judge the world in righteousness and to create a new heavens and earth.
- B. Those who receive forgiveness of their sins and the right to inherit this kingdom with Christ are those who repent, who turn from their loveless disobedience and disloyalty toward Christ and receive Him by faith as their crucified, risen, reigning, returning Savior, God, and King.
- C. Christ's true church on earth, today comprised of born again believers in Christ, is being given by Christ His authority to function as God's prophetic messenger to the world, to separate for Himself a people for His own possession who will not be condemned with the world. How will its peoples know the truth of God, find forgiveness in Christ, be delivered from the wrath of God if His church keeps silent? Let us seek His power to speak His word with boldness, unashamed of the gospel, inviting and warning the world to take refuge in Christ.