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Men

0411

"True Contentment: In A Faith That You Finally Own" May 31st 2020

WARM UP QUESTION (5-10 min): How can you tell if you own your faith or if it's borrowed? READ: <u>2 Kings 6:1-7</u>, <u>Acts 1:1-8</u>, <u>Acts 2:1-13</u>

FOCUS: True Contentment Comes When We Finally Own Our Faith

OBSERVE (10 minutes)

- > A borrowed faith (2 Kings 6:1-7)
 - The sons of the prophets were the company of gifted ministers who were learning to minster in their prophetic giftings/offices/callings.
 - They were being trained by a seasoned prophet named Elisha, who himself had been mentored by the prophet Elijah so that he might walk in the anointing of his ministry. They ministered 800+ years before Jesus.
 - As the sons of the prophets were being trained, they were concerned about expansion because where they were meeting was too small. The tool (axe head) for expansion was borrowed.

- God foreshadowed the expansion of his Kingdom 700 years prior to the arrival of Christ. The Israeli prophet Isaiah spoke by the Holy Spirit about Jesus, the Messiah. <u>Isaiah 49:5-6</u>
- They went to the one known to have God's power at work through him to help restore what was lost. It was restored supernaturally.
- > An owned faith (Acts 1:1-8, 2:1-13)
 - As the prophets were together for the purpose of expansion, Jesus brought the disciples together to prepare for His Gospel expansion.
 - They were waiting for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit to give them power to be a witness.

- Throughout the Scripture we find that sound theology was meant to lead to an experience of the realities of Christ. God never meant doctrine to be an end in and of itself. <u>(John 5:39-40)</u>
- > A Savior to whom we belong
 - True contentment is the product of belonging to a benevolent Savior. <u>(1 Cor 6:19-20)</u>
 - When Jesus enters the mix, we are lifted to do things that in the natural we could not do on our own.
 - As Jesus called Peter out of the boat onto the water, He calls us into the power of His Holy Spirit today. <u>Matthew 14:22-33</u>

"If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference." -A. W. Tozer

REFLECT AND DISCUSS (30 min)

- 1) The prophets were together to be trained and each had a log with which to build. Share how you are being trained in your giftings or how you would like to be trained.
- 2) God used the stick that was thrown in the water to lift the borrowed axe head. The cross of Christ supernaturally resurrects our drowning lives and ministry efforts. Share what He has resurrected in your life or what you want Him to resurrect in your life.
- 3) The disciples were waiting for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. He came in power. Some marveled and others mocked. What has been your experience?

PRAY & TAKE ACTION

- Receive Jesus of the Bible as Lord.
- Receive the Holy Spirit and be continually filled so that you can be a powerful witness for Jesus.
- Commit to a church where you can be trained and grow in Christ.
- Be engaged in God's work to see the Gospel go in power to the nations.