

The Holy Spirit and the Kingdom of God

Matthew 12:22-32

Text is verse 28

²⁸ But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Agenda

- All that Jesus does:
 - Begins with the Father
 - Is for the Father
 - Is in obedience to the Father
 - Is done in the authority He receives from the Father
 - In the power of the Holy Spirit
- Jesus came to do the will of the Father – as He is doing in this account from Matthew 12
 - Part of revealing the Father to us was to reveal and demonstrate the Father's agenda
 - He is not promoting His own agenda or ministry or trying to get attention for Himself or demonstrate His own authority and power

The Kingdom is the focus of the Father's agenda

- Mt 12:28 text – Casting out demons
 - By the Holy Spirit
 - Is the Kingdom of God coming...
- We see in the New Testament accounts that the Kingdom was Jesus' core message/cause from beginning to end
 - Immediately after He is baptised in the Holy Spirit He begins to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew 4:17, 23-25
 - Does not come declaring Himself to be the Messiah
 - In Matthew chapters 5-7, Matthew writes of this gospel of the kingdom
 - We see Jesus teaching the way of the Kingdom of Heaven / God

- Jesus is still speaking about the Kingdom just before His ascension – Acts 1:1-8
 - At the same time He prepares the disciples for the baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - And they will continue with the agenda of the Father
 - The Kingdom of God
 - In the power of the Holy Spirit
- God is working to see His Kingdom come
 - On earth
 - On individuals
 - In and through our lives
- This happens as the Holy Spirit works with authority and power in and through our lives
- The Kingdom coming:
 - Salvation
 - Signs and wonders (deliverance, healing, etc.)
 - Sanctification
 - Power as witnesses
- Salvation is the first and greatest manifestation of the Kingdom
 - But it is God’s plan for there to be a continual manifestation of the Kingdom in our lives
- He works through His Church and through His people (His children, disciples, etc.)
- The Holy Spirit will always be focussed on this work and will seek to focus on that work as well
- Which brings us to the next heading – Alignment

Alignment

- The Holy Spirit will always be working to see the Kingdom of God come
- The Holy Spirit will always be working to bring alignment with God’s Kingdom into our lives
 - Because this is His agenda in the world in and through our lives
 - Perfectly demonstrated in the way Jesus walked
 - This is what is manifested in the passage we read from Matthew 12

- What we need to see though is that this alignment is an initiative the Holy Spirit takes in our lives
 - It is not something we initiate
 - He does not work in us because we are doing something right
 - We are able to do what is right because He is working in us
 - We work with Him
 - Are led by Him
 - Keep in step with Him
 - Not Him with us
 - This is what we see Jesus doing
 - It is not something we achieve in our own strength
 - It is not something that we do in order to 'earn' the benefits of the Kingdom
 - Or the right / ability to exercise authority / power
- Gal 5:16-26 is one account of how to walk in alignment – keep in step with the Spirit
- This alignment is in:
 - Walking in the Spirit – keeping in step with Him
 - Not Him keeping in step with us
 - Being led by the Spirit
 - Bearing the fruit of the Spirit
 - Walking in the way of the Kingdom
 - The message of Jesus in Matthew 5-7 is about the gospel of the Kingdom
 - The way of the Kingdom
 - The ungrieved Holy Spirit
 - Walking in the blessedness of the Kingdom

Alignment is lost when we:

- Quench the Holy Spirit
 - Suppress or ignore Him
 - Are sluggish and dull of hearing (Heb 5:11, 6:12)
 - Not sensitive to the voice of the Spirit
 - Fail to respond to His prompting / leading...

- Grieve the Holy Spirit
 - Live more to gratify the flesh than walk with the Spirit
- Do not seek the Kingdom first
 - Matthew 6:19-24 – Are seeking a treasure other than one that is kept for us in heaven
- Become focussed on our agenda
- The truth is that we can do nothing without Him
- Will inherit the Kingdom ('see' and experience the benefits of the Kingdom) when:
 - We walk by the Spirit
 - Are led by the Spirit
 - Are in alignment with the agenda of God
- Gal 5:21 – will not inherit the Kingdom if we gratify the flesh
 - Are out of alignment with God's agenda
 - And the work of the Holy Spirit in us

Anointing, authority and power

- One of the points Jesus is making in the passage from Matthew 12 is that the authority and power He has is God's authority and power
 - He received this anointing from the Father
 - Through the Holy Spirit
 - To bring about the will of God
 - And see the Kingdom of God come on earth
- The same is true for us
 - We need to see that the anointing we receive
 - Is God's authority and power
 - Given by Jesus (who received it from the Father)
 - Through the Holy Spirit
 - To bring about the will of God
 - And see the Kingdom of God come on earth
 - In and through our lives
- Anointing comes from the Holy Spirit working through us

- Anointing brings with it the authority and power to accomplish God's agenda
 - Is not something we are given to exercise independently
- Alignment puts us under God's authority and keeps us focussed on His agenda
 - The purpose of His anointing
 - Just as Jesus walked
- Authority and power are a Kingdom issue – Matthew 12:28
 - The Kingdom of God has come upon you...
 - Given for the purpose of the Kingdom
 - God's agenda
 - His will being done
 - His Kingdom coming on earth...
- Where there is anointing there is authority and power to be witnesses
 - Of Jesus
 - Ambassadors of His Kingdom
- Where there is anointing there is authority and power to bear fruit
 - Of the Holy Spirit
 - Abundant fruit that lasts
 - Kingdom fruit
 - Inheritance
- His anointing is only fully functioning (and bearing the fruit it is intended to) when we are aligned with the reason it is given – the Kingdom of God
- Anointing is for the purpose of the gospel of the Kingdom
 - Is 61:1-2, Lk 4:16-21

Mt 12:22–32

²² Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. ²³ And all the people were amazed, and said, “Can this be the Son of David?” ²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.” ²⁵ Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. ²⁶ And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? ²⁷ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁸ But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ Or how can someone enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. ³⁰ Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. ³¹ Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

Mt 4:17

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Mt 4:23–25

²³ And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴ So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵ And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Ac 1:1–8

¹ In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,
² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ 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; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

The Ascension

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ 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.”

Ga 5:16–26

Keep in Step with the Spirit

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Mt 7:28–29

²⁸ And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹ for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

Lk 4:16–21

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸ “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,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”