

2022 THEME: BETTER TOGETHER

Christ at Work in You

John 11

Introduction:

1. According to **Romans 8:34**, Christ is in heaven doing a great work – He is praying on our behalf to the Father.
2. As discussed previously over the last two weeks, we know that in the age in which we live today that we are not seeing the outward, physical signs and wonders that were so prevalent during Christ's earthly ministry. But don't think Christ has stopped working and is on an eternal siesta. He is very much at work.
3. **Christ desires to do a great work in those of us who have trusted in the finished work of Jesus Christ. **Philippians 1:6; 2:13; Colossians 1:29; Ephesians 3:20.****
4. Remember, if you are in Christ, divine power is working in your life. Christ desires to do amazing things in your life, ultimately changing you into His glorious image.
5. But **How can we see Jesus Christ do a great work in and through us?** I am talking about a mighty work, a work changing us from the inside out, enabling us to become the man or woman in Christ we are capable of being.
6. There are some key principles from this text. If learned and applied to our lives, they will allow Christ to do a mighty work in and through us.

First, do what Christ has commanded.

1. A principle found throughout Scripture is **"God will not do for you what He expects you to do."**
2. A great example of this is in our text. **Look at **verse 39**: "*Take away the stone.*"** Like Christ's body after the crucifixion, Lazarus'

body was laid in some type of man-made chamber which had a huge stone rolled in front of it (**vs. 38**).

3. Lazarus could not come out unless the stone was moved. Could Jesus have miraculously rolled the stone away? Absolutely!
 - But in the case of Lazarus, a miracle was not necessary. The men that were there were capable of rolling it away.
4. **It took a miracle to raise Lazarus from the dead, but it took willing men to move the stone from the grave.**
 - God doesn't work miracles when we can do the work. **Being spiritually lazy doesn't provoke God to work miracles on our behalf.**
 - Miracles are not intended to be a substitute for hard work and responsibility.
5. **What is the application here? If you want Christ to do a great work in and through you, you must apply yourself to grow spiritually.** You must set aside time for prayer and Bible study. (Get in a small group Bible Study, take an online Bible class, and read and study out some great biographies and sermons of past preachers and evangelists.)
 - God is not going to do these for you, nor will He force you.**
 - You have to roll away the stone from your heart, allowing Christ to do a great work in and through you, changing you into His image.**
6. A great example is found in **2 Corinthians 3:12-18**, please turn with me there, and let's look at this together. (*a veil over hearts*).
 - Notice our responsibility ("**turn to the Lord**"-**vs. 16**), but then Christ does by His Spirit what we can't do ourselves ("**transformed**" – changed-**vs. 18**). Having "**removed**" (taken away; cast-off-**vs. 16**) the veil by turning to the Lord, allows Christ to miraculously transform our lives.
 - When we remove the stone or veil from our hearts, by truly seeking the Lord, the Spirit of God sets us free (**vs. 17**). We are

- free to love, free to serve, free to give, free to forgive, etc. He produces the Christ-life in and through us! **Galatians 2:20**
7. In what areas of your life do you need God to do a great work? **If you truly want to see Christ do a great work, you must have a tender heart that desires to do what Christ has commanded.**
 - **Upon our obedience, Christ will do what we can't do!** The power that works in us is the divine enablement that He promised to provide us!
 8. This balance is seen in **Colossians 1:28-29**. The Apostle Paul said, ***"We are preaching Christ and teaching every man."*** He said, ***"I labor, striving according to His (Christ's) working, which works in me mightily."***
 9. Let me summarize what Paul said in **Colossians 1:28-29**, ***"I am laboring diligently like it all depends on me; but I am praying and depending on Christ-like it all depends on Him."***
 10. God can do a great work in and through you! I challenge you to read His Word (Romans through Philemon) and make a note of every one of God's commands.
 11. Pray to the Lord and communicate to Him that you truly desire to obey and do what He has said to do. **1 Thessalonians 2:13 - ... when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you received it not as the word of men, but as it truly is, the word of God, which effectively works also in you who believe.**

First, do what Christ has commanded.

Second, overcome the voice of opposition.

1. Christ desired to do a great work for Lazarus, but right before He did it, He was hit with opposition (**vs. 38-39**). At another time, Christ was laughed to scorn.
2. Whenever God is about to do a great work, you can always expect some sort of opposition. We see this throughout the Bible. It is true

concerning God's work on earth today, which is done through the local church, and it is also true in our personal lives.

- This was true during the time of Nehemiah's tenure as leader of Israel. When he got serious about seeing God do a great work in Jerusalem, there were two men, Sanballat and Tobiah, who were skeptics who tried to discourage him from the LORD's work. Look at **Nehemiah 2:17-20**. These kinds of people have always existed and always will.

- **Nehemiah 2:17-20 - Finally, I said to them, "You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem is devastated and its gates are burned with fire. Come, and let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no more be a reproach." 18 Then I told them that the hand of my God had been good to me and also about the king's words that he had spoken to me. And they said, "Let us rise up and build!" So they strengthened their hands for the good work. 19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite subordinate, and Geshem the Arabian heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?" 20 Then answered I them and said to them, "The God of heaven, He will enable us to prosper. Therefore we, His servants, will arise and build, but you will have no portion, or right, or memorial in Jerusalem."**

3. **When you begin to get serious about the Lord and the things of God, especially when God is doing some awesome things in your life, the opposition will be stirred up to hinder His working.**
4. Sometimes that voice will come from friends, those around you, and sometimes even from family (Martha was Jesus' dear friend).
 - **This can hurt deeply, but you can't let it stop you. There is another area where the opposition can come from and next week we will learn what that is.**

5. **Let me close by saying that God wants us to live by faith. Yes, God wants us to walk by faith and not by sight, and we cannot please the Heavenly Father except through faith.**
 - **2 Corinthians 5:7 - For we walk by faith, not by sight.**
 - **Hebrews 11:6 - Without faith, it is impossible to please Him...** This is very emphatic. It didn't say, "You might not please Him." It said if you don't operate in faith, it's impossible to please Him!
6. **Do you walk by faith? Do you trust God to do a great work in and through you? Do you believe He can work in your family? Do you trust God to do a great work through your local church?**
7. So if we are going to see Christ do a great work in our lives, we must do what Christ has commanded and we must overcome the voices of opposition and learn to walk by faith.