

2022 THEME: BETTER TOGETHER

Christ at Work in You

John 11

Introduction:

1. How many of you desire to see Christ at work at Freedom? What about in the lives of Student Ministries, KidZone Kidz, VBS, and KA? Do you regularly pray about that happening? Now, what about Christ at work in you, do you pray daily for in your life too?
2. We saw last week that God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ work too?
 - **John 5:16-17 - So the Jews persecuted Jesus and sought to kill Him because He had done these things on the Sabbath day. 17 Jesus answered them, "My Father is working still, and I am working."**
 - **John 5:36 - I have greater testimony than that of John. The works which the Father has given Me to finish, the very works that I do, bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.**
 - **John 17:4 - I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work You have given Me to do.**
3. (Read **John 11:38-44**) Let's look together once again at our text for this series of Christ at work in you and then we will pray.
4. In our time period, we are not seeing the outward, physical signs and wonders that were so prevalent during Christ's earthly ministry. But please **don't** think Christ has stopped working and is on an eternal siesta. **Christ is very much at work.**
5. Last week, we saw some verses written directly to us who are living in this time period of grace by the apostle Paul. **Notice once again the form of the word "work" used in the following verses:**

- **Philippians 1:6 - I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ.**
 - **Philippians 2:13 - For God is the One working in you, both to will and to do His good pleasure.**
 - **Colossians 1:29 - In this I labor, striving according to His power, which effectively works in me.**
 - **Ephesians 3:20 - Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or imagine, according to the power that works in us.**
6. **If you know the Lord, there is divine power at work in your life. Christ desires to do amazing things in your life, ultimately changing you into His glorious image.**
7. What does this look like daily for the Christian, **SHOW PICTURE** “**Work in Progress.**”
- If you know Jesus today, this should typify your life. **But how can we see Jesus Christ do 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?**
8. **If the principles that I will give in you this series are learned and applied to your life, they will allow Christ to do a mighty work in and through you.**

First, do what Christ has commanded.

1. When I was in Bible College, I would often hear others praying, especially the night before a final exam. They would ask God to miraculously and supernaturally fill their minds with the answers.
 - Guess what? God doesn't do that. They would have been better served studying than praying for a divine miracle.**
2. Another example is when, having spent their money frivolously (i.e. lotto tickets), people will pray, “**Lord, I spent the money that was needed for my electric bill; please do a miracle.**” My suggestion

to you is that you'd better get a flashlight or have some candles ready.

3. This first principle of ***doing what Christ commands*** sounds extremely simple, yet it is profoundly true. Christ emphasized it many times to His disciples. **John 13:17; 14:15, 21; 15:10, 14**
 - Christ gave specific instructions to His disciples in regards to Israel's kingdom program. He explained Israel's place, their part or role, and what to do to prepare for it.
4. Also, Christ has given specific instructions to the church today. From heaven, He appeared to the apostle Paul, giving him 13 books full of wisdom, commands, and specific instructions for us today. To put it simply, we must **do** what Christ has commanded.
 - **Philippians 4:9 - Do those things which you have both learned and received, and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.**
 - **2 Thessalonians 3:4 - We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will do the things which we command you.**
5. A principle found throughout Scripture is "God will not do **for** you what He expects **you** to do."
6. 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**).
7. Lazarus could not come out unless the stone was moved. Could Jesus have miraculously rolled the stone away? Absolutely!
 - We know this happened at the tomb where Christ's body was laid. **Matthew 28:2 - And then there was a great earthquake. For the angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door and sat on it.**
 - But in the case of Lazarus, a miracle was not necessary. The men that were there were capable of rolling it away.

8. **It took a miracle to raise Lazarus from the dead, but it took willing men to move the stone from the grave.**
- Had Martha and the others been **unwilling** to move the stone, I don't believe Lazarus would have been resurrected.
 - 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.
9. What am I saying? **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, etc.)
- 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.
10. A great example is found in **2 Corinthians 3:16, 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**

In Conclusion:

1. In what areas of your life do you need God to do a great work? **If we truly want to see Christ do a great work, we 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!
2. 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.”***
 3. 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.”***
 4. 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.
 5. 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.

Come back next week for part 3 of this message!