

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.”**

3. 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. **2 Corinthians 3:12-18** *turn to the Lord/veil removed*
4. If you want to see Christ do a great work, you must have a tender heart that desires to do what Christ has commanded. **Colossians 1:28-29**.
 - **Colossians 1:28-29** - whom we preach, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present them perfect in Christ Jesus. **29** In this I labor, striving according to His power, which effectively works in me.
 - **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. **Mark 5** – *JayEYeruhs' daughter*.
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.
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.**
Nehemiah 2:17-20
 - **2 Corinthians 5:7** - **For we walk by faith, not by sight.**
 - **Hebrews 11:6** - **Without faith, it is impossible to please Him...**

4. 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.

First, do what Christ has commanded.

Second, overcome the voice of opposition.

Third, fearlessly stand on Christ's promises.

1. Is there anybody in here who can say, “I have spiritually arrived”? “I’ve got it all together, and I have perfected every area of my life.” If anybody raises their hand, I hope you are not sitting next to them in case lightning strikes! I don’t believe any of us would say it.
2. **The truth is, every one of us has areas lacking in our lives (I.E.>humility, contentment, joy, love, patience, holiness, faithfulness, forgiveness, etc.). **Romans 4:18-25****
 - Maybe we struggle with depression, feelings of inferiority, loneliness, financial stewardship, our relationships, etc.
 - It doesn’t matter really the area, we all have them. We, unfortunately, want to categorize people by their area and often see them as inferior or worse than ours. Look, we all need Jesus and we all need to lean and stand on His promises.
3. What did Lazarus lack? He lacked life! He became increasingly sick, resulting in his death. He was dead for four days. **Notice that Jesus Christ prays to the Father in front of everybody (vs. 41-42) and then cries with a loud voice (vs. 43), “Lazarus, come out.”** (Christ exercised great boldness. *I think most of us would have whispered it in case Lazarus didn’t come out, so as to not be embarrassed.*)
 - He didn’t do this so that Lazarus would hear him. He could have whispered it, and Lazarus would have still come out of that grave. He did it so that everybody watching and around Him

- would hear and would know that Lazarus came out at precisely the moment when Christ commanded.
4. Christ had a promise that the Father would hear Him at all times, and Christ stood fearlessly on that promise even after Lazarus had been dead for four days.
 5. **Are there areas that are lacking in your life? Join the crowd.**
One of the greatest men of faith in the Bible is Abraham. God gave him a great promise – he would be the father of a great nation.
 - But when he is introduced in Scripture, isn't it interesting that he is defined by what he **lacked**. He had no child. He isn't brave Abram or faithful Abram, but childless Abram – he was defined by what he lacked.
 - **Why? Because God would show Himself great! God calls attention to the need so we won't miss the great display of His divine power at work in and through us.**
 - **Let's now look at this together in [Romans 4:18-25](#) of this example in Abraham's life. There is no way to miss this. Although Abraham had a great area of need in his life, he fearlessly stood on God's promises. He wasn't perfect, and certainly had setbacks, but he trusted in God to do a work through him.**
 6. **God can do a great work in your life, but you must get in God's Word, and study His promises to you as a believer in this time of grace.**
 - Paul said, ***“For all the promises of God in Him are “Yes,” and in Him “Amen,” to the glory of God through us.”***
[2 Corinthians 1:20](#)
 7. Like Christ, don't be afraid to stand on those promises in prayer, privately, and publicly. Share with others what you are trusting God to do in your life. Get them praying with you.

In Conclusion:

1. **When you trust the Lord and stand on His promises, Jesus will provide divine enablement, unlike anything you could have ever imagined. **John 11:44****
2. Jesus said (vs. 44), ***“Unbind him, and let him go.”*** Lazarus found freedom in Christ. Christ doesn't give life and then leaves you bound. He didn't give him life and then make him walk around the rest of his life like a mummy. He set him free!
3. Is there an area of your life where you feel bound? Are you experiencing opposition? If you have Christ's life, He can set you free: ***“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”*** **John 8:36**
4. **Will you allow Christ to do a mighty work in and through you?**