

Luke 9:1-11

"Recognizing and Responding to God's Demonstration of Power and the Spirit in Preaching"

*Does God still attend gospel preaching with miracles? What does this mean for us? Pastor leads his family in tomorrow's "Hopewell @Home" passage. In these eleven verses, we learn that God attends the faithful preaching of His Word with miraculously transformed lives. This is gladness and encouragement for those who receive that Word, but dreadful warning to those who are unaffected by it or even reject it.*

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via [tinysa.com/hopewellarp](http://tinysa.com/hopewellarp))

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Luke chapter 9 verses 1 through 11, these are God's words. And he called his 12 disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons. And secured diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. And he said to them take nothing for the journey.

Neither staffs nor bag nor bread nor money. And do not have to tunics a piece. Whatever house you enter stay there. And from there depart. And whoever will not receive you when you go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet. As a testimony against them.

So they departed and went through the towns. Preaching the gospel and healing everywhere. Now, there are the tetrarch heard. Of all that was done by him and he was perplexed because it was said by some that John had risen from the dead and by some that Elijah had appeared.

And by others that one of the old prophets had risen again.

Herod said John I have beheaded. But who is this? Of whom I hear such things. So he sought to see him.

And the apostles when they had returned told him all that they had done. Then he took them and went to side privately into a deserted place belonging to the city called Bit Syeda. But when the multitudes knew it, they followed him. And he received them. And he spoke to them about the kingdom of God.

And healed those. Who had need of healing. So far our Lord's inspired and inherent. Authority of life giving sufficient word. This what a. Privilege and blessing that. Hearing it is how he has given us to worship him.

So Jesus sends the 12 disciples out and he saw sends them out primarily as preachers. Which is the picture that we have had of Jesus throughout the Gospel as of himself primarily as a preacher and they don't seem to give the kingdom. And that he does in his healing in his actions show that the kingdom has indeed come demonstrates who he is and he does something similar with them because it says he sent them in verse two, he sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick and it says in verse seven sorry for six, they departed went through the towns preaching the gospel the good news.

And healing everywhere and then we're reminded that this is really Jesus is preaching and Jesus is healing that he is doing through them when he does the same and the multitudes come to him even in the deserted place in verse 11 and he receives them and he speaks to them about the kingdom of God and heals those who had need of healing known Hebrews chapter 2 that tells us that the Gospel of Jesus Christ, he spoke at first by those who had heard him and that God testified along with them of the truth of their word at first by doing the signs and wonders by doing the miracles like healing.

So the healing the always in the ministry of Christ and the ministry of the apostles had this confirming testifying function, it was what God was doing to declare that Jesus is God the son in the flesh and that the one who would die on the cross is God the son and the flesh, in fact there's a tie between our passage this morning and Jesus's death on the cross and that is Herod seeking to see him.

Very condemnatory, it declares how great the judgment and wrath against Herod is because all the way back here in chapter 9 when he heard about the things that Jesus and Jesus disciples were doing he wanted to see Jesus to find out who he was you didn't think necessarily that you could come back from being beheaded.

So it sounds at least in this passage like he had ruled John the Baptist out at least in the thinking here, but we read and other gospels that he thought that it was John the Baptist so as you probably have often had when you come up on something confusing or perplexing, it seems like Herod was confused and going back and forth couldn't figure it out wanted to see Jesus and we find out in chapter three of the chapter 23 of this gospel at Jesus's box shameful scornful trial.

The Herod had been hoping to see Jesus maybe Jesus would do some signs maybe check out if he looked like John the Baptist which may be he did he was his cousin but so the the passage is connected and it's really a declaration of who Jesus is he is God the son what he came to do to establish this kingdom by dying on the cross and rising again from the dead and that resurrection is highlighted here as well.

Because John did not have power of resurrection in him and Elijah, you know raised others from the dead he didn't actually die did he but here the Lord Jesus is the one who is the resurrection and the life

and so there are all those things that then the question comes if that's how God testifies to the truth of the gospel and to the identity of who Jesus is and the power of what Jesus has done on the cross and why don't we see God.

Testifying to the power of his preaching now why don't we have healing time in the church why don't I preach a sermon and then after the sermon we go around and everybody who is sick or injured that day. I heal them so that God by the healing affirms the truth and powerfulness of the word that has just been preached.

Well the answer is because God. Does continue to testify to the power of his word preached but he does it through something that is actually greater but takes longer to develop and is longer term than what was happening in leading chapter 9 and we read a little bit about that even during the New Testament time this kind of demonstration that God's power had begun, of course and first Thessalonians chapter 1 where he, Tells them that he said thankful to God for them and he remembers before God without ceasing their work of faith verse 3 their labor of love their patience of hope knowing their election by God for he says in verse 5 our gospel did not come to you in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit, so you see the parallel there the Lord Jesus and Luke chapter 9 sent them out not to preach the word.

Only but also by the healing to demonstrate that that word comes with power and with the Holy Spirit for our gospel did not come to you in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance as you know, what kind of men we were among you for your sakes, so that was a first demonstration the character of those who preached but then also the character that was produced.

And those who heard and you became followers of us and of the Lord having received the word and much affliction with joy of the Holy Spirit, so receive the word with joy in the midst of affliction that's one of the fruits of the Spirit so that you became examples to all in Macedonia who believed for from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Decaya, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone out.

So that we do not need to say anything for they themselves to clear concerning us what manner of entry we had to you so the way the church receives and responds to the word is one indication is another indication of its power and how you turned to God from idols.

The leaving off of the former life and what they lived for to serve. The living in true God and the turning to a new life in which a life of service unto the living in true God and to wait for his son from heaven hemi raised from the dead even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come so you see these evidences even going back up to verse 3 their work of faith their labor of love their patience of

hope, they're receiving the word then verse verse 9 their transformation of life the difference between them.

Now after hearing the word and their unbelieving state all of these were demonstrations of the fact that the preaching was not in word only. But in demonstration of power and the Holy Spirit, so the Lord does still testify which is. Which is actually worrisome in some situations because there is what is called preaching but there is not the transformation of life and the receiving it and rejoicing in it as the very words of God.

And so. One of the things to desire and pray for the church is one of the things to cry out to God for our own church is that he would keep on producing these evidences of his power and his spirit working by his word, but another thing to pray is that the people who are there that they would not turn against the Lord his word or his preacher.

Because the testimony of God to his word actually was not a positive thing for everyone about whom this passage speaks we've already mentioned Herod and how great his condemnation is, but there's also the verse four and five whatever house you enter stay there. And from their depart he told them in verse 3 that they were not to finance themselves or support themselves that those who received such a word with such power in it should be willing to take care of them and their material things the church is still still do that the scriptures teach that that is the the right thing to do with those who is calling is to preach the gospel everywhere and you know, the way the spirit puts it through the apostle Paul.

Is that. If they have benefited from them and spiritual things the congregations are benefiting from the preacher and spiritual things and it really is the smallest expectation that the preacher should benefit from the congregation and material things so he said that in verse three and four but then he says and whoever will not receive you.

When you go out of that city shake off the very dust from your feet as a testimony against them well the testimony is against those who are not receptive of this word to which God is giving his witness but to whom is that a testimony well, it's a testimony to God his testimony against them that will rise up at the judgment and condemn them.

For having heard the word of God faithfully proclaimed and yet not received it and responded. Positively and taken care of the preacher whom God had sent to them and what a dreadful thing that is so while we pray to God and seek from him that he would continue attending the ministry of the word here with power.

Let us also be careful of our own hearts how we are responding to and receiving that word is unlikely that for the rest of your life your preacher will be your daddy. You are to assign by God to take good material care of your preacher as part of your response to God's

powerful word, but then let's also pray and be remembering those who are not responding this way for will be a dreadful thing for them at the judgment.

Just as it was a dreadful thing for Herod at the judgment. Let's pray. Our father in heaven we thank you that. Your chosen way of attending your word with power and showing that your word is attended with power and with your spirit in our day is the transformation of our lives of your people's lives you hear that word we thank you for the way that you have been doing that and so many hope well and, For the mercy of being able to observe that and their lives and even when we are.

Not feeling or not perceiving it in our own lives, we may look around and know that it is your word because we can see the demonstration of your power and your spirit in what you are doing we pray Lord that that might continue we pray that you would do that in each of us.

I ask for each one here in my family that you would be continuing to transform them helping them to hear and receive and respond to your word as your very own. And that they would continue leaving off the life that they have from the first Adam which is really a death in the service of that which is not God and that you would keep growing then and serving you the living and true God that that their work of faith and that their labor of love and so on would be evident.

Lord do this for the glory of Christ do this for our good do this for the encouragement of your people and we do ask for those who are among us who are not receptive. That you'd have mercy upon them and turn them before the word is removed from them lest the dust should be shaken off the feet and testify against them on the great and dreadful day.

So we ask all these things in Jesus name. Amen.