



## The Kingdom of God in Full Force

Message by Andrew Kulasingham, 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2019

**Scripture Readings:** Mark 8:34 – 9:1

<sup>34</sup> When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? <sup>38</sup> For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

<sup>9:1</sup> And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”

### The context

Peter had just got top marks for his answer – You are the Christ

Then come verses Mark 8:31-32

- It didn’t make sense
- The Christ – the anointed one – rejected and killed
- After 3 days, rise again – that’s crazy talk

**He rebuked Peter, saying, “Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”**

- the word mindful
- habits of thinking, saying and doing, desires and conclusions that are of man and not of God.
- by implication – to have a set mindset that is of man and not of God
- to be preoccupied with doing things of man and not of God

I went to the United States with one question: Why do we see the miraculous in third world countries and not in our western world?

- Options? Yes that is one reason. We are spoiled for choices. We have plans A, B, C and D. If God doesn't come through, we have alternative plans.
- We aren't as desperate.
- Heidi Baker – medical teams and healing crusades – less miracles when they had medical teams simultaneously.
- With options come our default setting – the thought of the miraculous seems far-fetched, unscientific, unexplainable.
- With the dawn of enlightenment – believing in sensational ideas of miracles in the Bible are no longer required.
- So we focus on doctrines.

But that is not the Gospel.

Romans 1:16 - **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes**

There's no plan B – just one plan – the Gospel of power – *dunamis* – the miraculous power

Jesus was telling them God's plan for the Christ.

- I will be rejected, I will suffer, I will die but I will rise from the dead in 3 days.

Die and rise to life again?

- That's not the habit of thinking we are used to.
- That doesn't agree with our default mindset.
- We are not preoccupied with the miraculous on a daily basis

In other words – we are not mindful of the things of God

But that's what God thinks – he cannot be anything other than Himself.

- When he sees sickness – He desires to heal.
- When he sees pain he longs to remove it.
- When he sees brokenness he wants to restore.
- When he sees repentance He wants to forgive.

Jesus declared at the onset of his ministry:

Luke 4:18

**“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,  
Because He has anointed Me  
To preach the gospel to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives  
And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;**

Guess what his plan for the church is. What has he anointed believers to do?

- To preach the gospel to the poor;
- To heal the brokenhearted,
- To proclaim liberty to the captives
- And recovery of sight to the blind,
- To set at liberty those who are oppressed.

But we have not seen this happen.

- So our conclusion is – God no longer does the miraculous.
- Cessationist ideas – the gifts of the spirit and the miraculous ceased after the apostles.
- That’s what we have set our minds to – mindful of the things of man.

**What does the Bible say?**

Mark 16:15

**And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”**

That is foolishness for the scientific and logical mind which thinks that these are thoughts for the third world – the uneducated – the simple minds.

However –

- Brethren – this is the mind of God – he cannot be anything other than himself.
- He exists as the impossible and does the impossible.

So, back to our text:

### **1. Are we ashamed of God?**

**For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels. And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.**

Are we ashamed of this Gospel?

- You will see the kingdom of God come with power.
- The Gospel is the Gospel of power - power of God to salvation.
- It is supernatural – it is miraculous – it is beyond comprehension.

Ashamed of that? – Then we have a problem with God.

### **2. If not ashamed – then are we ready to deny ourselves and carry God’s version of reality as our cross**

**“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.”**

I choose not to base my beliefs and theology around my circumstances. I choose to believe God’s word as it is.

- Just because we haven’t seen the healing yet – does not mean God does not heal.
- I will pursue healing when I see someone who is sick.
- I will pursue deliverance for all who are in bondage.
- I will pursue inner healing for the broken hearted – until they see their breakthrough.

**No plan B – That is the gospel – it is the gospel of power.**

Romans 1:16 – **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes**

We will not be put to shame

Just believe together – everything God has promised in His word is true and is for us.

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