

II KINGS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to II Kings chapter 3 as we continue our study through the Word of God. We left off last time with the ministry passing from Elijah to Elisha, who is now the spokesperson for God. Remember that Elijah was taken up into heaven in a whirlwind and as that happened we were told in II Kings 2:13-14, **“He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan. Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, ‘Where is the Lord God of Elijah?’ And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.”**

Elisha not only saw Elijah taken up into heaven, but we now see the mantle passed onto Elisha and he divided the waters of the Jordan River and crossed over on dry ground just as Elijah had done before he was taken up into heaven! Thus, our focus now is going to be the ministry of Elisha and as we will see, the king in the Northern Kingdom of Israel will be Jehoram, the son of Ahab. With that said, let’s begin reading in II Kings chapter 3, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word!

II KINGS 3**VERSES 1-3**

1. Jehoram takes over the reign in the Northern Kingdom of Israel from his brother Ahaziah. You see, Ahaziah did not have a son to take over the throne, and thus, Jehoram, the son of Ahab, takes his place. Talk about your dysfunctional family, that was Jehoram's. His father, Ahab was one of the most wicked kings in the Northern Kingdom of Israel and Ahab's wife, Jezebel, was the most wicked queen. Now when Jehoram is compared to his parents, Ahab and Jezebel, he is not that bad, and yet, according to God's standards, he still did evil in the sight of the Lord.

In regards to what Jehoram did and didn't do, Russell Dilday tells us, "The 'sins of Jeroboam' that Jehoram perpetuated were not related to the worship of Baal but to the false worship of Yahweh under the calf (of ox) images that Jeroboam set up in Dan and Bethel. This was primarily a political strategy rather than a religious one." And Knapp wrote, "He appears to have been, in spiritual matters, one of those undecided, neutral characters, who puzzle most observers, and who never seem to know themselves just where they stand, or belong. He put away the Baal statue, made by his father Ahab, but never became a real believer in Jehovah." Thus, even though Jehoram was better than his father, he was still a bad king in the eyes of the Lord and he is the ninth bad king in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Keep in mind the Northern Kingdom of Israel didn't have any good kings, none that had a heart for the Lord as David did, they followed in the footsteps of their first king in the Northern Kingdom, Jeroboam and some were even worse, as Ahab was!

VERSES 4-5

1. Keep in mind that the Moabites lived on the eastern side of the Dead Sea and for many years they were under the authority of Israel, they had to pay a yearly tribute or tax you might say to Israel. But now that king Ahab has died, they are trying to get out from that bondage; they are going to rebel against the Northern Kingdom of Israel. And this was common as a new king took over; they would see this as an opportunity to gain more land or as in this case, to escape the taxation that was forced upon them by the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

2. We are also told in Easton's Bible Dictionary that, "Beth-omri, 'the house' or 'city of Omri,' is the name usually found on Assyrian inscriptions for Samaria. In the stele of Mesha (the 'Moabite stone'), which was erected in Moab about twenty or thirty years after Omri's death, it is recorded that Omri oppressed Moab till Mesha delivered the land: 'Omri, king of Israel, oppressed Moab many days, for Chemosh was angry with his land. His son succeeded him, and he also said, I will oppress Moab' (comp. 2 Kings 1:1; 3:4,5). The 'Moabite stone' also records that 'Omri took the land of Medeba, and occupied it in his day and in the days of his son forty years.'" So we do have historical records showing that the Northern Kingdom was oppressing the Moabites with taxation.

VERSES 6-8

1. When Jehoram sees what Mesha, the king of Moab is doing, he gathers his forces together to put down this rebellion. He also asks the king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah for help and for whatever reason, Jehoshaphat, the king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah agrees to help Jehoram out in this battle. It could be that he was related to Jehoram as Jehoshaphat's son married Ahab's daughter, Athaliah. And Jehoshaphat was a godly king; he loved the Lord although some of his decisions were not very wise, as we are seeing here. His father, Asa fought against the Northern Kingdom of Israel, (I Kings 15:16), while Jehoshaphat is making peace with them! He even made peace with the wicked king Ahab and went to war with him, (II Chronicles 18), just as he is doing here with Ahab's son!

Since Jehoshaphat had more military experience, Jehoram asks him for advice in how to defeat the Moabites and Jehoshaphat tells him that their strategy in this battle is to go south to Edom and attack Moab at its southern boarder. This area in Edom was very dry, it was a desert and maybe the idea here is that the Moabites would never think an army would travel this way.

VERSES 9-10

1. Now as they traveled through Edom they picked up the king of Edom to assist them in this battle, so these three kings, with their armies are going against Moab. The problem for some is that I Kings 22:47 tells us, “**There was then no king in Edom, only a deputy of the king.**” Yes, the Edomites were under the authority of the Southern Kingdom of Judah, they did not have a king you might say but they did have a kind of vice-regent appointed by the king of Judah! So there is no discrepancy here.

2. Now as they are traveling through this desert, someone asks, “Hey, who brought the water?” “I thought you had it?” And that was a huge problem as you traveled through the desert, no water and when you are going to attack another nation, you kind of sealed your fate, you are in serious trouble! Thus, as Jehoram sees what is happening he goes into this fatalist attitude, “We’re all going to die!” He is not seeking God, He is looking at the outward circumstances, which were not good, and came to the wrong conclusion. The problem for Jehoram is that he was not seeking after God and thus, the outlook was hopeless! And as you read verse 10 it seems that Jehoram knows that he has sinned against God and thus, this is a judgment of God upon him. But there is no repentance, just this fatalistic attitude!

VERSES 11-12

1. I want you to notice the two different outlooks here. First, a person who is not seeking God has no hope and refuses to look up. That was Jehoram. On the other end of the spectrum is a man of God who seeks to find the will of God in this matter, and in that there is great hope. That was Jehoshaphat! It is as Isaiah 41:10 tells us, **“Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”** You see, where are you going to go in times of trouble? Will you run to that which cannot help you and be hopeless or will you run to the Lord and wait upon Him, and again, in that is great hope! For Jehoshaphat, He is seeking a prophet of God and when they speak of Elisha, this humble servant of God who poured water on the hands of Elijah, they go and seek his wisdom; they go and see what the Lord would have them do in this situation!

VERSES 13-15

1. As they approach Elisha, this prophet of God does not hold back and he lets Jehoram have it. You see, he truly was not repentant, he was looking for help out of a difficult situation and thus, Elisha tells him to go and seek the god's of his father, Baal! There is no use messing around and wasting time with people that are truly not interested in the Lord, even though Jehoram does try to tell Elisha that the Lord has brought these three kings together for battle! To that Elisha tells him that the only reason he will inquire of the Lord and speak with them is because of Jehoshaphat, for he was a godly king who loved the Lord!

2. Now after this we see Elisha asks for a musician to come and play for him, why? It is possible that this encounter with Jehoram has stirred him so much he needs to get refocused and thus, he brings a worship leader in to calm his spirit and bring him back to that place of worship and hearing the voice of God! Matthew Poole picks up on this as he wrote, “This he requires, that his mind, which had been disturbed and inflamed with holy anger at the sight of wicked Jehoram, might be composed, and cheered, and united within itself, and that he might be excited to the more fervent prayer to God, and joyfully praising him; whereby he was prepared to receive the prophetic announcement.” I think that is what is going on here. Music is a powerful medium.

3. Now, how does that relate to us? Because music is an important part of our worship service here at Calvary Chapel of Manitowoc. Praise music ministers to our heart, it refreshes us, it refocuses us and-so-on! You see, as you come in from the world, you are bringing with you all the things you have experienced that day. And as we praise the Lord, our focus is taken off of us and we are now focused on the Lord. When our worship is over, we then are ready to hear the Word of God, to see what He is going to say to us. We are ready to receive and apply God’s instructions into our life just as Elisha was doing. And this is not just for church service, worship music is at our disposal all the time, we just need to listen to it and let our hearts get refocused upon Him! John Trapp tells us, “The way to be filled with the Spirit is to edify ourselves by psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs.”

4. One last point here and then we will move on. What is the name of this musician that played for Elisha? We don't know, he was just a servant of God and look at what his service did for Elisha. We need to remember that whatever gift we have, not only in music, we need to share it so that the body of Christ can be edified, it can grow, it can even be corrected when needed. Russell Dilday put it like this, "This nameless musician was endowed with God-given talents and he used them for the good of others. Surely it never occurred to him that by his music he would help win a military victory and have a dramatic effect on history. But when he shared his God-given ability, the power of God came upon the prophet." May we not forget that!

VERSES 16-19

1. First of all they were stuck out in the middle of the desert, without water, and now, the last thing they wanted to do was to dig ditches, to do heavy work. But God is showing us a very important principle here. That principle is that of human service and divine intervention. You see, before God would supply the water, they had to dig the ditches. Yes God could do it all without us, but He doesn't. He uses us as His instruments to accomplish His will. But before He supplies the water, we must dig the ditches, or be faithful in what God has called us to do.

The problem many times for us is that we feel as God sends us a blessing, then we will dig those ditches in a sense. You know what that is? That truly is unbelief. Faith acts upon what God has said before He has provided it. God promised it and thus, we need to get ready for it! And God was going to give to them more than just water, He was going to give to them a complete victory over the Moabites, they just needed to dig ditches to receive the blessings of God and so must we!

VERSE 20

1. Notice that it did not rain on them, but probably in the mountains and as the rain came down, it was caught in these ditches and thus, they had water to drink! You see, after the ditches were dug, God supplied the water, but He did not cause it to rain upon them as I have said, but in the higher elevations. Jerusalem was some 2800 feet above sea level and it could have been sunny where these soldiers were, but a real gully washer could have been occurring in the mountains. Thus, by the time this water reached the lower elevations, you could see flash floods occur, filling these ditches easily, just as God said.

Now think about this for a minute. If they failed to dig those ditches, that blessing that God had for them would have flowed right by them, they would have missed it! And the amount of the blessing was related to how many ditches they had dug. The more ditches that they dug the more water they were able to capture. It was not easy work, especially since they didn't have water prior to them digging these ditches, but they did it by faith and God blessed them exceedingly abundantly above all that they could ask or think!

We also have to keep in mind that the ditches were not the blessing. The ditches did not give them the victory. Think about it. Apart from God giving this water supply, those ditches would be empty. The victory was not in how well they dug those ditches! The ditches were an act of faith by these men and God honored their faith and He did bless them.

VERSES 21-25

1. As the Moabites had gathered for battle, rising early in the morning, they saw, or thought they saw the camp of Israel covered with blood. They thus surmised that these three kings had come to blows with each other and killed each other. Thus, the Moabites were going to come and take the spoil without even fighting the battle, or so they thought.

Now as they came to take the spoil of this victory, the three kings rose up and defeated the Moabites. Isn't it interesting the plans we come up with regarding various situations we face, and many times they are good plans from a human perspective. But God has a completely different plan, one that we can't take credit in and He will give us the victory if we would walk by faith and not by sight! May we remember that!

VERSES 26-27

1. As Mesha, the king of Moab sees the battle turning against him very quickly, he tries to make an escape with 700 of his men leading the way, but this army was too strong and they could not break through. Thus, when this failed, he offered his eldest son as a human sacrifice to their god; he burned him on the wall. Why in the world would he do this?

They thought that if you were losing in battle and you offered your eldest son as a sacrifice, you would be victorious in battle. How sad that is. Human sacrifice was widely practiced by the Moabites. Undoubtedly he offered the sacrifice to his god Chemosh, hoping that by offering his heir, Chemosh would save him from the enemy.

2. Now it says in verse 27 that, “**... there was great indignation against Israel. . . .**”

The idea here is that Israel; these soldiers were so repulsed by this brutal act, that they just went back home, leaving the battle. And probably in the mind of the Moabites was that their god, Chemosh gave them the victory because of this sacrifice, but that was not the case at all!

3. We do have archaeological evidence of this battle with Mesha, the king of Moab. We are told:

A remarkable archeological discovery, the Moabite Stone, contains Mesha's own record of this battle and other battles with Israel. On this stone the Moabite king claimed to have been delivered from the Israelites by his god Chemosh on this day. Though it is true that he was not captured at Kir Hareseth and the Israelites withdrew, Israel and her allies were the real victors in this campaign.

The account of this battle provides further proof of the sovereignty of Yahweh and of the complete vanity of idols and idolatry. But even with so many proofs Israel continued to spurn the Lord and foolishly worshiped pagan deities.

- John Walvoord, Roy Zuck, The Bible Knowledge Commentary, pp. 543-544

4. As we move into II Kings chapter 4 this evening we will see 5 miracles of Elisha. So let's dig in and see what the Lord has for us in these stories.

II KINGS 4

VERSES 1-7

1. Elisha, who worked with these young prophets, finds out that one of them has died. And now his widow is in trouble, for the creditors are coming, and since she has no money to pay them, they are going to take her sons to pay off the debt. And this was a common practice in those days.

2. Now when Elisha hears of this he asks this woman what she wants him to do. He wants to know what does she have left in her home? And all she has is a jar of oil and many feel that this is nothing more than a small anointing flask that the prophets would use to anoint people with.

After hearing this Elisha has this woman obtain as many containers as she can find. And as she gathers them, she takes her jar of oil and is able to fill each of these containers. The oil did not stop flowing till there were no more containers to fill. In fact, there were no more containers in town; her son had gathered them all. After this, she is then able to sell the oil to pay off her debt.

3. How does this relate to us as Christians today? We know in the Scriptures that oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. Thus, we must be emptied of self, of pride, so God can fill us overflowing with His Spirit. You see, the quantity of oil was only limited by the lack of empty vessels. Paul in Ephesians 5:18 said, “**And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be continually being filled with the Spirit.**” If you are filled with pride and self, you are causing the work of the Holy Spirit to dry up in your life. Why? Because you are already filled to the brim with self, and there is no more room for the Holy Spirit to work in you, thus, the oil stops!

4. This miracle here is similar to the one we read about in II Kings chapter 3, the digging ditches. You see, as many ditches as they dug God filled with water and as many vessels this woman obtained, it was filled with oil! In regards to this, Spurgeon tells us, “If she borrowed few vessels, she would have but little oil; if she borrowed many vessels they should all be filled, and she should have much oil. She was herself to measure out what she should have; and I believe that you and I, in the matter of spiritual blessings from God, have more to do with the measurement of our mercies than we think. We make our blessings little, because our prayers are little.”

VERSES 8-17

1. As Elisha is passing by Shunem, which was north of Mount Gilboa and south of Mount Tabor, this woman opens her home up to him, and each time he passes by, he lodges there. We don't know her name, just that she is a woman from Shunem. And at first, she had no idea who Elisha was, but she does find out and I will explain how she found out in a minute.
2. What I want you to notice about this woman is that she had the gift of hospitality, and what a great gift that is. People who open up their home to others are a blessing and they truly share the love of Christ. Those that have this gift make you feel like you are part of their family, just as this woman did for Elisha.
3. Now it is not long before she recognizes that Elisha is a man of God. How did she know that this was a man of God? Did Elisha wear a tee shirt proclaiming that fact? Or did he use that title to introduce himself, "Good evening madam, I am a prophet of God, Elisha's the name and prophesying my game!" Did he have a good public relations group promoting him as a prophet of God? No, I think it was because he lived what he believed, and others picked up on that. The same is true for us, people should see something different in us, and as they look upon our lives, they should see that we are men and women of God.

4. Now, because of all the kindness she has extended to Elisha, he wants to do something for her. But she did not need anything and was very comfortable the way she was living. There was only one thing that she did not have and that was a child, she was barren and her husband was old.

And understand, not to have a child was a disgrace in Israel, and not having a son would put an end to the family name. So Elisha tells her that she was going to have a son. Her response was, “Please don’t play games with my emotions. My husband is old and I in no way can conceive a child.” Doesn’t seem like her faith was too strong, and yet, as Elisha promised her, it came to pass. She has a son! This longing in her heart was now gone and this stigma of barrenness was removed! And please note that this blessing of God was not a material blessing, she was given a son. Not that God doesn’t bless us with material things, He does. But too often we look to material things and focus on them instead of the giver of those things, God Himself!

VERSES 18-20

1. This woman has a son, just as Elisha had said, at the **APPOINTED TIME!** And this child grows and as he is out in the field with his dad, his head begins to hurt. And like many dads, when their child is sick, he sends him to his mother. Now we don’t know how old this child is, probably only around 5 years of age or so, and there he dies in his mother’s arms. This woman who wanted a son for years, and finally God gives her a son, now he is taken away. What a sad and touching turn of events for this woman. And how can this be? God gave her a son at the **APPOINTED TIME** and now he is taken away from her. It seems cruel. It seems unfair.

Here's the thing. I don't always understand the how's and why's of God, and for the most part, I just don't get it. But this I do know. God is fair, He is right, He is good, there is no darkness in Him at all and thus, what I don't understand I have to learn to trust and rest in Him. It is not an easy thing to do but it is the best thing to do. God has an ***APPOINTED TIME*** for everything and we must learn to trust Him in everything!

2. Now how did this young boy die? Some speculate that it was heat stroke, it could be, especially if he was young and out in the field for a long time. It could be an aneurysm in his head that burst. We just don't know and that is not the issue. The issue is the sovereignty of God, He does as He pleases and it is good, it is what is best!

VERSES 21-23

1. This woman who had lost her son had not lost her faith. And she tells her husband that she is going to see this man of God. And you have to love her husband's response. He basically tells her, "Why are you going to church, its not Sunday?" How often men we just don't get it, but this woman did and many times our wives get it. Thank God for them, they complete us in so many ways just as God created them to do!

And this woman convinces her husband that she needs to go and see Elisha, this man of God, and tells him, her husband, “**It is well.**” But in the Hebrew it implies, “It will be well.” That is true faith. She, by placing the body of her dead son in Elisha’s room, the place he stayed in this woman’s home, she was not preparing him for burial, but for resurrection! It is as Adam Clarke put it, “She had no doubt heard that Elijah had raised the widow’s son of Zarephath to life; and she believed that he who had obtained this gift of God for her, could obtain his restoration to life.” What faith she had and she is going to prepare to go meet this man of God, Elisha!

VERSES 24-26

1. Why didn’t she tell Elisha’s servant, Gehazi why she was coming to see Elisha, because her son was dead? Some feel that she didn’t want Elisha to hear of her grief through his assistant, Gehazi. She wanted to tell Elisha herself. That is possible, but I think there is another possibility. It could be that she believes by faith that this man of God, Elisha, would bring her son back to life again. I tend to lean on her faith even though, as we will see, her heart was grieving. That doesn’t mean she lacked faith, she just longed to have her son back! Again, when she says, “**It is well**” the Hebrew implies, “It will be well.” She is looking ahead to her son be raised from the dead!

VERSE 27

1. This is interesting, for Elisha has the gift of the word of knowledge. That is God shows him things that he in no way could know. But here God holds back and Elisha is unsure why she has come and what is troubling her. But she is going to tell him!

VERSE 28

1. What happened to her faith here? I think her emotions got the better of her and she longs for her son so much that she lashes out at Elisha and basically tells him, “Look, I told you I wanted a son and when you said you would give me a son I asked you not to mock me or deceive me and look, that is what you have done by his death!” Folk’s, our faith does the same, it waxes and wanes back and forth at times because we are so focused on the situation we take our eyes off the Lord!

VERSES 29-37

1. Elisha sends his servant, Gehazi on ahead of them, but this woman is sticking by the side of Elisha. And as Gehazi arrives and places the staff of Elisha on this dead child, nothing happens. And he goes and lets Elisha know of this and when Elisha comes into the house, he alone is in the room with this child. And he prays to the Lord and the Lord instructs him to lie upon the child, and the flesh of the child began to warm up.

Now that is interesting to me. We don’t know how long the child was dead, probably a few days and thus, life was gone. The body was cold, it was lifeless and just laying on this body would not make it warm. Some say that was what was happening, but I disagree, this was a miracle and yet, he did not wake up yet. The body was warm but there was no life in it yet.

So Elisha gets up, walked around the room, I'm sure praying to the Lord, and he lays upon the child again and the child sneezes seven times, opens his eyes, he has been resurrected! Again, this was not mouth-to-mouth resuscitation; it was a miracle! Then Elisha calls for his servant to call the mom in, she picks up her son and you can imagine what joy there was!

2. Now what can we glean from this in our own lives? First of all apart from Christ people are dead in their trespasses and sins and only a resurrection will bring them back from the dead, spiritually speaking! Now there are times we approach people with the staff of authority and we use theology to speak to them, and they remain dead, spiritually speaking, just as Gehazi found out with the staff of authority! Yes, this does work at times but too often our theology is lifeless and the only way we will impact people for Christ is to come in contact with them, as Elisha did with this child!

And I also want you to notice that this miracle did not happen all at once. It took time and Elisha was praying, and the same is true for us. As we share our faith, as we come in contact with others, up close and personal, we need to pray, it takes time, not everyone hears and believes instantaneously. But when it does happen, what joy there is seeing a sinner who is dead in their trespasses and sins come to life in Christ, resurrection life! The great principle here is that when we are dead in trespasses and sins, personal contact with Jesus Christ brings life. In Him we have life. He *is* life. Thus, may we bring people to Jesus!

VERSES 38-41

1. Gilgal was the first place the Israelites camped after crossing the Jordan into Canaan (Josh. 4:19, 20). Gilgal was probably about one mile northeast of Jericho. And there was a famine in the land and the prophets are eating what is out in nature, gathering things together and making a stew. Now I can see myself doing this, Mr. Nature Man, gathering some food in the wild, only to find out it is deadly. And Elisha puts some flour in it, and the stew is healed.

2. What in the world can we glean from this to apply to our Christian lives? Folk's, we are living in difficult times, times where there is a famine in the land. Not of food or water, as Amos tells us, but of the Word of God. People are grasping for doctrines of demons (I Timothy 4:1), and for the philosophy's of the world (Colossians 2:8-10). But that is not the answer that is the problem. The solution is to add flour, which was used in making bread. You see, the Word of God neutralizes, in a sense, the poisons that kill. And yes many people are ignorant and zealous for what they are bringing into the church, but there is death in the pot. The only way to heal it is to get back to the bread of life, and apply it to your life, for the Word of God is living and powerful, and will give you life.

Spurgeon put it like this. He wrote, “There is death in the pot; how is the Church to meet it? I believe it is to imitate Elisha. We need not attempt to get the wild gourds out of the pot, they are cut too small, and are too cunningly mixed up; they have entered too closely into the whole mass of teaching to be removed. Who shall extract the leaven from the leavened loaf? What then? We must look to God for help, and use the means indicated here. ‘*Bring meal.*’ Good wholesome food was cast into the poisonous stuff, and by God’s gracious working it killed the poison; and the Church must cast the blessed gospel of the grace of God into the poisoned pottage, and false doctrine will not be able to destroy men’s souls as it now does.” May we not lose sight of this, keep the main thing the main thing, and the main thing is Jesus and as John tells us, He is the Word and thus, may we read Jesus, may we read His Word that He wrote to us for it brings forth life to the believer and not death!

VERSES 42-44

1. Elisha’s servant was almost embarrassed to set this food out, for it would not feed all these people. But if we give to God all we have, He has a way of multiplying it, all we need to do is give thanks and trust that what He has promised, He is able to perform. It is as Spurgeon wrote, “What can these few cakes do towards feeding a hundred men? They forget that God can multiply them. Ye limit the Holy One of Israel. Do you think he needs our numbers? Do you think he is dependent upon human strength? I tell you, our weakness is a better weapon for God than our strength.”

2. We have seen here in chapter 4 of II Kings 5 miracles of Elisha. First of all there was the miraculous increase of oil. Then a son was born to a woman who was barren. Then this son, who died at a young age, was resurrected from the dead. We saw the poisonous stew healed. And we saw the multiplication of the loaves of bread! The same God who was working in Elisha is still working and He is working in each of us!

I want to close this evening with this. In Mark 16:14-18 we are told, **“Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. 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.’”**

You see, this power was not just for the first century church for in Luke 24:49 we are told, **“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”** And then Peter, on the day of Pentecost said in regards to this empowering, **“For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”** Acts 2:39. Thus, it is for all of us! This empowering of God to go forth and bring the Gospel message to the people of this world!

The problem today is we have people following after signs and wonders and that is not what Jesus said. He is telling us that as we abide in Him, live out our faith, these signs will follow after us, wherever we go, even to the most remote places in the world! May we remember that, just live out your faith and see what the Lord will do in you and through you for His glory!