

Luke 19:38

... saying, "Blessed is the **King** who comes in the **name of the Lord!** Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Psalm 118:25-26

Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us **success!**
26 Blessed is He who comes in the **name of the Lord!**

The Palm Sunday Problem

- **Short-lived**
- **Superficial**

Luke 19:41-42

And when he drew near and saw the city, **he wept over it**, ⁴²saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace!"

The problem was **not** the salvation & success (*favor*) ... but the **way** in which Jesus would bring it.

We can be ashamed of **God's ways.**

- **Not ashamed of the Gospel**
- **B-L-E-S-S method/tool**

Do you know **the way** in which God wants to use you to share the Gospel?

Acts 1:4, 8

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but **to wait** for the promise of the Father ... you will be **baptized** with the Holy Spirit not many days from now: ... ⁸But you will receive power when **the Holy Spirit** has come upon you, and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

God's way: His people filled with **His Holy Spirit** acting boldly as His witnesses.

- **First church: had to **wait** first ...**
- **Our church: do not have to wait; we have to be **open****

Micah 2:7 (NKJV)

... "Is the Spirit of the Lord restricted?"

OPEN:

- **When our heart is in a "spiritual" position that the Spirit of God can use us to share the Gospel of which we are not ashamed**

Why use the word “OPEN”?

- We must never tell God how He should work
- Tells us God is in charge
- Makes receptivity our responsibility

1) **Acknowledge** God has **more** for us ...

1) **Acknowledge** God has **more** for us and then marry that with **desire and faith**.

Why did they have to wait?

- Somethings had to be settled in heaven
- Somethings had to be settled in their hearts

God does not adjust to us; we must adjust to Him!

Acts 1:6-8a

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you **at this time** restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has **fixed by his own authority**. ⁸**But** you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses ...

2) **Lay** some things **down** ...

2) **Lay** some things down to **make room** for **purpose** and the **power** to fulfill it

Holy Spirit as a “baptizing” presence:

- Invasive (immersing) presence
- Transcending power
- Transforming power

Acts 1:14

All these with one accord were **devoting themselves to prayer** ...

3) **Unite together in prayer** → Luke 11:13

→ **To ask for what has been settled in heaven.**

Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were **all** together in one place. ²And **suddenly** there came **from heaven** a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where

they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were **all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak in other tongues **as the Spirit gave** them utterance.

4) Be **ready and expectant** ...

- God will both **keep His promise** AND **preserve His sovereignty**

Readiness Checks:

- ✓ Allow for the **unexpected**
- ✓ Allow for what does **not make sense** to us

Ways of God will sometimes **offend the mind** to **reveal the heart**.

Three Readiness Problems:

- **Overfamiliarity** with God
- Trying to be **in control**
- Allowing **pride & self-consciousness** to kick in

From this point forward, we are walking in **fellowship & partnership with the Holy Spirit**.

John 16:14a

He {the Holy Spirit} will glorify me {Jesus} ...

There will be **opposition**, usually in the form of **fear or distraction**.

- From within
- From without

Acts 2:13b

... others **mocking** said, "They are filled with new **wine**."

Acts 2:14-15, 22

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give **ear to my words**. ¹⁵ For these people are **not drunk**, as you suppose ... **22** Men of Israel, **hear these words: Jesus** ...

5) Be all about **Jesus!**

- This is not a **prescription** for our lives but a **pattern** for our **purpose**.
- This not **deluxe** Christianity but **normal** Christianity.
- Would you give God what the first church did?
 - OPENNESS