



Grace Assembly Of God

Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Reading Devotional

Scripture: Matthew 10 Title: Power with Responsibility

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Summary of Chapter: Jesus sends the Apostles out to share the Gospel. But He doesn't send them out empty handed. He freely gives them power to heal the sick, raise the dead and cast out demons. This great power is available to us. This is an overwhelming display of love and trust in us by Jesus. Yet as He cautions us that we have a responsibility to publicly acknowledge Him.

Key Verse(s) NLT How does it speak to me?

⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received! ³² Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.

My attention was immediately drawn to verse 8. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy and cast out demons. What kind of power is this? The world doesn't offer this and Jesus makes it clear that this power is freely given. Money can't buy it. Why would Jesus entrust us with this? It is a further demonstration of Jesus' love and trust in us. He gives us the responsibility to bring salvation and healing to His creation. But as the other verses state, we have our part to play. We need to publicly acknowledge Him. We are His ambassadors after all. There have been occasions where I found it difficult to make that public declaration for Jesus, particularly before my family when I first came to know Jesus. We face this difficulty because people's approval can matter more to us and there is a fear of being rejected. I remember an occasion when all of what we are studying today seemed to come together. My father is someone whom I don't communicate very well with. He had a heart attack several years ago. He is a pre-believer and he had taken the news of the rest of his family accepting Jesus, badly. I faced a choice, I had to summon up the courage to ask him if I could pray for him and risk him reacting angrily. I did so and he said yes and I prayed with him. While nothing outwardly dramatic happened, I believe God answered my prayer and strengthened his heart – the occasion also gave me a choice to make a public declaration for Jesus before my father again. While it was difficult, I felt good after it was done. The blessings Jesus has given us more than outweigh the small effort on our part. Jesus' ways of doing things also resonates with me for another reason. He is very practical. He empowers His people through love and trust. As employers, we should try to do this and if we do I am sure we will reap the rewards when we lead in the way Jesus did. Such leadership traits will no doubt inspire and build loyalty in others. No wonder so many books have been written about Jesus' leadership model.

APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult: How do these verses resonate with you? Have you found it difficult on occasion to publicly acknowledge Him? Mediate on His love and person and overcome.

Youth: Jesus sets no minimum age requirements for us to be able to move in Him, to heal the sick and raise the dead. What is holding you back from doing this?

Child: Have you prayed for someone who is sick before? Share with your family what happened to the person after you have prayed. If the person was healed, who do you think did the healing? Why?

P R A Y E R

Praying Scripture: Dear heavenly Father, Thank you for entrusting us with bringing your salvation to your people. Cause us to understand what a privilege this is. We thank You also for the privilege of being able to work miracles in your Name. Today help us examine our lives and find the areas where we have not fully acknowledged You as Lord and Saviour and lets us, through Your strength and mercy, submit these areas to You. Lord I pray that we give full reign to You to be our Lord in all areas of our lives.

Thanksgiving Prayer:	I/We thank you for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)
Intercessory Prayer:	I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)
Salvation Prayer:	I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.