

THE LIFE OF CHRIST IN THE GOSPELS
Class #18 – Thursday PM, APRIL 18, 2006

Current events – “LIE DOWN WITH STRIPPERS, WAKE UP WITH PLEAS” article by Ann Coulter
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Ensure fellowship with 1 John 1:9

- Continuing the study of Matthew
 - Matthew presents Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah King of Israel
 - Matthew’s genealogy attests to His royal right to the Davidic throne in fulfillment of the Davidic covenant mentioned in 2 Sam 7:12-13
 - You have a promised descendant who was given to David; one who would sit on an eternal throne and rule a kingdom
 - When Jesus Christ takes the throne as a King from heaven, He is going to rule a heavenly kingdom on earth with heavenly principles
 - This is how all the families of the earth will be blessed in Abraham as per the blessing portion of the Abrahamic covenant found in Gen 12:3

2 Sam 7:12 “When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.

2 Sam 7:13 “He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

Gen 12:3 And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Matthew 1:1

(1) **The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David** (emphasizing the promise that God made to David), **the son of Abraham** (emphasizing the promise that God made to Abraham)

- The Royal King who is about to enter human history must be announced by a herald
 - In the gospel of Luke, we see how God is going to prepare the way for this Royal King

Luke 1:5-7

(5) **In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah;** (there were 24 divisions of priests at this time, each consisting of a little less than 1,000 men) **and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth** (both Zacharias and Elizabeth were descendants of Aaron, the father of the priesthood).

(6) **They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord** (although they were still sinners, they were following the protocol of divine worship, executing their spiritual life as per the dispensation of the Age of Israel under the Mosaic system of protocol – the Mosaic Law).

(7) **But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years** (both were beyond the child bearing years).

- Zacharias is exactly where God wanted him to be, doing exactly what God wanted him to do
- This is dependant on two things
 - Volition – to be malleable to the will of God
 - The providential hands of God to direct the circumstances to place you at the right place at the right time
- In the Church Age we have something in addition to the providential hand of God to place us where God wants us to be – that is found in the leading ministry of God the Holy Spirit.

POD – the Church Age believer has the potential to be led from within by the Spirit of God as God Himself directs the circumstances from without.

- What enables the believer to determine that the supernatural intrinsic experience of being led is in fact that of God the Holy Spirit and not a false mystical experience, fleshly emotion, or mere human intuition?
 - Bible Doctrine circulating in your stream of consciousness

POD – Metabolized Bible Doctrine protects the believer, (in the Church Age), from delusion of being led because the leading of the Spirit is never contrary to the Word of God.

- This is why the Word of God, Bible Doctrine, has to be metabolized, by applying faith to it under the filling ministry of God the Holy Spirit, so that the Spirit can teach your human spirit and illuminate you to that truth

***Expanding the concept for the Church Age believer
Divine Guidance is based on four things:***

Phil 2:13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for **His** good pleasure.

1. **Volition** (malleability to the will of God).
2. The **providential hands of God** to direct circumstances in our lives from without.
3. The **leading of the ministry of God the Holy Spirit** from within through the bearing witness ministry of the Holy Spirit (conviction of the will in fulfillment of Phil 2:13).
4. **Metabolized Bible Doctrine**, because the leading of the Spirit is never contrary to the infallible Word of God.

Luke 1:8-13

(8) Now it happened *that* while he was performing his priestly service before God in the *appointed* order of his division,

(9) according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

(10) And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering.

(11) And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense.

(12) Zacharias was troubled when he saw *the angel*, and fear gripped him.

(13) But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John.

- “Do not be afraid”
 - Fear had gripped him; Jewish tradition stated that the place where the angel was standing was actually the place of God; he knew that no man had seen God and lived
- “Your petition has been heard”
 - He and Elizabeth had been praying from the time they consummated their marriage and did not produce a child; they had been praying importunately for years and years; depending on the one in the throne room of grace, who could solve that problem as the author of life

Luke 1:14

(14) "You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

- Why will Zacharias have “joy and gladness”?
 - Vs. 15-16 explain why Zacharias is going to experience joy and gladness

Luke 1:15-17

(15) "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb.

(16) "And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God.

(17) "It is he who will go *as a forerunner* before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, **TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN**, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

- *And you will give him the name John*
 - Vs 15-17 is essentially John's mission statement and he is going to do God's will
 - It is a great honor that is going to be bestowed upon John

3 John 1:4

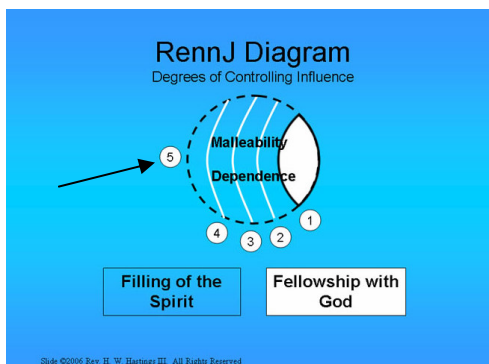
(4) *I have no greater joy* (John writes) *than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth* (tantamount to doing the Will of God).

- Zacharias is going to experience no greater joy
 - He will have joy and gladness as a Father, because his son is going to do the will of God by heralding the coming of this royal king with a royal descent
 - A descendant of David and Abraham who will come to fulfill the Davidic and the Abrahamic covenants
- How is John going to be able to do this great thing on his own?
 - *He can't*, it requires divine enablement
 - He will have to depend upon divine enablement for his life, just as each one of us have to in the time in which we live

Luke 1:15

(15) *"For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled (PIMPLEMI) with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb.*

- *Who's going to make him great?* GOD.
- *Why is he going to be great in the sight of God?* Because he is going to depend on the provision that God affords him to do the Will of God and thus accomplish the Will of God for his life.
 - There are many famous people in the world today
 - But people become GREAT by fulfilling God's will for their life
 - It is better to be a great person in the sight of our Lord than a famous person in the sight or eyes of the world
 - Focus on what God wants you to do with the time He has given you
 - Depend on the divine provision for you to do the will of God
- *"and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit"*
 - In the Greek – the genitive of PNEUMA modified by HAGIOS also in the genitive
 - A reference to God the Holy Spirit
 - PIMPLEMI – to fill or fulfill, in the passive voice, bringing in the meaning – to be *satiated*; to be fully filled or filled to excess
 - The Holy Spirit is going to fully fill John, and that is going to be required for John to fulfill what he needs to do with the time that God gives him
 - For us in the Church Age, this refers to "Bar 5" of the RennJ Diagram



- In the time in which we live, Fellowship with God and the Filling of the Holy Spirit must be distinguished
 - When you rebound into fellowship via **1 John 1:9**, you are restored into an absolute status of fellowship with God *where you are filled* (Bar 1)
 - And you are to *keep on being filled* as per **Eph 5:18**; present passive imperative of PLEROO.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Eph 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit

- As the believer is malleable to the Will of God and malleable to what God the Holy Spirit was sent to do in his life and walks in dependence upon God the Holy Spirit to do what God wants him to do – the Spirit secures degrees of manifestation contingent upon the believer’s malleability and dependence
 - Bar 1 – where you are when you are restored to fellowship
 - Bar 2 – a greater sphere of influence has been secured by the Holy Spirit within the life of the believer, because of his malleability and dependence upon the Spirit
 - Bar 3 – a greater sphere has been secured
 - Bar 4 – even a greater sphere, contingent on “letting go” of things you’ve been holding on to
 - Bar 5 – illustration from the life of D.L. Moody
 - A man fully surrendered to God
 - The Spirit secured all that was available from that man to secure
 - God accomplished great things with him
 - And God is going to accomplish great things with John
 - God the Holy Spirit is going to secure the greatest sphere of influence that He can secure of John

Luke 1:15

(15) "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled (PIMPLEMI) with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb.

- Is this the same Filling of the Holy Spirit that we have in the Church Age?
 - NO
- John is living on the other side of May 24th, AD 33, when God the Holy Spirit began His unprecedented ministry in the life of the born again believer
 - God the Holy Spirit did not indwell the believer prior to May 24th, (a Sunday), AD 33
 - Acts 2 – the day of Pentecost
- What is in common between the two periods?
 - Controlling influence
- What is not in common?
 - The indwelling of God the Holy Spirit
 - The Church Age believer’s controlling influence comes from within because of the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit which is permanent from the point of faith alone in Christ alone, regardless of the categories of sin the believer may become involved in
 - The solution to sin is 1 John 1:9, and then malleability to the will of God whatever that will may be, malleability to the Spirit’s ways with you, and walking in dependence on Him to do the will of God.
- Where is John’s controlling influence coming from?
 - It is coming from without, or upon him
 - It will remain upon him
 - This is called the *endowment* of God the Holy Spirit
- What *else* is in common?
 - Divine enablement – to do the will of God requires the Filling ministry of the Holy Spirit, otherwise we are functioning according to the flesh
 - Functioning according to the flesh is as filthy rags to the sight of God

POD - As the endowment of the Spirit provided the divine enablement to do the will of God for the Old Testament Saints (as John was since he lived during the Age of Israel), so the Filling of the Holy Spirit provides divine enablement for the New Testament Saints to do the will of God.

- Divine enablement or endowment of the Spirit was *limited* and *special* and could be *lost*
- For the believer in the Church Age, the Filling of the Holy Spirit is *normal* and can be *lost* as well

- The divine enablement is lost in the same manner
 - Personal sin
 - We don't lose the *indwelling* of the Holy Spirit which is permanent
 - 1 Cor 3:16, 6:19

1 Cor 3:16

(16) Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that the Spirit of God dwells* (OIKEO in the present tense; continues to dwell) *in you?*

- Paul was asking this of the Corinthians
 - They were indwelt despite their carnal behavior
 - It was being grieved by them
 - You don't lose the Holy Spirit, but you can lose His controlling influence
- In both cases (Old Testament and New Testament Saints), where does the divine ability come from?
 - By the controlling influence manifested by the Spirit
- What else is common between the two?
 - Degrees
 - Partial manifestation in the Old Testament
 - Degrees of manifestation from within in the Church Age (RennJ Diagram)

Summary

- What is common between the two?
 - *Controlling Influence*
 - *Divine Enablement*
 - *Degrees*

Luke 1:15

(15) "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled (PIMPLEMI) *with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb.*

- "*while yet in his mother's womb*"
 - EIT, a reference to a future time, indicated by EK + KOILIA
 - KOILIA refers to Elizabeth's womb in this case
 - EK denotes separation from Elizabeth's womb as the point in time from which John would be Filled with the Holy Spirit
 - Corrected translation: ... and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit *out from* his mother's womb.

Luke 1:16-17

(16) "And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God.

(17) "It is he who will go *as a forerunner* before Him (a reference the King, Jesus Christ) *in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*"

- John's job is to prepare the nation of Israel for the coming of her promised King, a descendant of David and Abraham, with a royal lineage
 - God is bestowing a great honor on John
 - It requires divine enablement
 - God always provides the believer with the divine enablement required to do the will of God when the believer functions in the RennJ diagram with malleability and dependence on the FLOT line of his soul
 - You must trust that the enablement is there in whatever God would have you to do

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.