Mat #96

The greed that the cosmic pulpit breeds.

HELLO to the Royal Family out in California… Matthew & Kimberly thank you for the great conference.

ELABORATE

Thanks to Revell in Maryland positive emails and financial support…thanks to the ladies from Wyoming Trista, Nancy & Tylee for all the support.

4th Malachi message is up on my home page here. Also at gbible.org.

The last conference message is up and I filmed one of my messages at the Fall River outreach program from July 6th. I did 3 messages there in Fall River but only filmed one just so you folks get a feel of our outreach program and how we are trying to evangelize in our own backyard from Grace Bible Church in Somerset Mass.

POLITICAL items are happening.

 Lets get back into our Matthew message.

Mat 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: “Do not go in *the* way of *the* Gentiles, and do not enter *any* city of the Samaritans;

[Mat 10:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/10/6/s_939006) but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

[Mat 10:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/10/7/s_939007) “And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’

/[Mat 10:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/10/8/s_939008) “Heal *the* sick, raise *the* dead, cleanse *the* lepers, cast out demons. **Freely you received, freely give.\**

[Mat 10:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/10/9/s_939009)“Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts,

[Mat 10:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/10/10/s_939010) or a bag for *your* journey, or even two coats, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support.

We see the protocol of preaching the word and proclaiming the gospel as the priority with the secondary mission of healing those who have come to hear the word and helping Bels out who have dire medical issues.

The preaching of the word is first and foremost.

Just as TLJC had done…be imitators of ME Jesus is telling them.

Then the Lord reminds them I requested nothing of you and I gave freely of Myself to you… so you too…Apostles will go forth with no demands of obedience, no set financial goals…no preconceived notions of anything.

/The Pastor-teacher should never have the priority of putting a price tag on his teaching (it is not his to begin with). The pastor with integrity will not focus on payment, just as the congregation with integrity will not withhold financial and logistical blessings in supporting the teaching.\

You see it goes both ways.

This first part of the lesson we need to look at is the pastor-teacher…then we will shine a light on the congregation.

TLJC is letting them know there is nothing you did to earn or deserve the grace gift bestowed upon you therefore make sure you do not go out as my teachers and leaders and demand something of the people you speak too.

/When God ordains a pastor-teacher or puts His hand upon a ministry to bring forth His word the last thing that pulpit should be striving for is a financial profit. God will bless the area of finances when the leadership of that church focuses intently on His word and leaves the other details to HIM!\

ELABORATE

The problem we see in Christian circles today is the mega church syndrome.

We see the church leadership get involved with putting a price tag on everything and this is dangerous ground, it goes against what Mat chapter ten is showing us.

/[Mat 10:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/10/9/s_939009)“Do not **acquire** (*ktaomai*) gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts,

The Lord is telling them get your mind off of anything else, except my word.\

KIT-TAR-OH-MY - meaning to seek something out, to gain possession of something or someone…it was often a Greek verb used for getting a wife or getting married.

Turn to Isaiah chapter 55 with me.

TLJC is reminding these new teachers that we should not put unrealistic expectations on others and that we all fall under the grace of God….it was given to us freely all we had to do was have a positive attitude about TLJC and we are given so much.

/Rom 3:23 **for all have sinned and fall short** of the glory of God, 24 **being justified as a gift by His grace** through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;\

TLJC did all the work….God the HS is responsible for guiding us toward salvation and setting up a permanent temple in your soul structure.

God the Father is the divine architect of the plan.

Any teacher….Bel…or any of us that think we have any power in our OSN and we somehow are responsible for our own salvation or for that matter our current Spiritual IQ is an arrogant fool!

REPEAT

Isaiah is preaching a gospel message to Unbel Jews. This is a salvation message!

/Isa 55:1 Ho! **Everyone** who **thirsts** (*thirsty ones*), come to the **waters**; And **you who have no money** come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk **without money** and without cost.\

THIRSTS is translated as if it were a verb but it is not, it is an adjective. It should be translated “thirsty ones.”

/***water*** - is often analogues to the WORD of God, the Holy Spirit and sometimes the cleansing act of salvation itself.

Eph 5:26, Jhn 7:38-39, Rev 22:17\

TYPOLOGY

Those are three theological definition of water that are easily found in scripture.

They are being told to drink water that is provided for them, they just need to make a positive gesture and drink and the free water will refresh them and cleanse them. There is no charge…it is free.

Wine & milk have great spiritual meaning as well.

/**Wine** -(Biblically) if used properly was designed as a form of relaxation and a soothing beverage that adults would use during dining/festivities (fellowship).

**Milk** – is used to sustain a baby and a form of nourishment.\

In the spiritual sense this is looking forward after the water of salvation to the spiritual grace gifts that the word of God offers the Bel.

All of this is available with no strings attached except that the BEL has to drink it in and has to eat or metabolize the word.

[/Isa 55:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/isa/55/2/s_734002)“**Why do you spend money for what is not bread**, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and **eat what is good**, and delight yourself in abundance.\

TLJC is said to be the bread of life…this is not only pointing directly at Christ but HIS mind which in (1Cor 2:16) Apostle Paul said we as Bels have the mind of Christ through the written word.

The Bible is available and if a pastor or church is putting a financial price on Bible teaching, they are going against the word of God.

EXAMPLE- my book….Christian author or Christian speaker is different than pastor.

These scriptures in Isa 55 are not uncommon in the OT….salvation through TLJC and focus upon the word of God.

God has always revealed His Son long before His Son went to the cross historically. Jesus Christ is revealed in many different ways in OT.

Don’t let anyone ever try to tell you that people were not saved in the Old Testament times by faith in Christ, it has always been the way of salvation without variation.

It has never been about following the LAW.

Gal 2:16 along with several other scriptures…clearly tells us man is not justified by the LAW…no works or flesh can pass the divine justification standard.

Turn to Acts chapter 8.

Now back in Matthew chapter ten;

TLJC was sending his new church leaders out with the focus on the word not on financial support. This was a step out in faith that Jesus was pushing these men toward…not only to evangelize but put their faith into action! REPEAT

At this historic point Stephen one of the church’s first deacons had been stoned to death and the Apostles were moving about still proclaiming the gospel and avoiding the anger mobs and authorities.

Philip was in Samaria and he was preaching and healing people.

Pick it up in verse 9;

/Act 8:9 Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was **practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria**, claiming to be someone great;\

This was an Unbel and someone we would call a charlatan. He was receiving payment and attention as a spiritual guru to the Samaritans.

He was the closest thing they had to a pastor-teacher and he was respected and recognized yet he was teaching false doctrines and practicing black magic which was a demonic power.

/Act 8:10 and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, “**This man is what is called the Great Power of God.”**

Simon the guru had a counterfeit power and a counterfeit spiritual system.\

And he was cashing in on this demonic power. We see this inside the walls of many churches and spiritual movements today. People swear it is a power of God or it is a man of God… yet it is the wrong god!

[Act 8:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/act/8/11/s_1026011) And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts.

[Act 8:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/act/8/12/s_1026012) But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. 13 Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

This Unbel Simon who was either demon influenced or possibly demon possessed man appears to become positive toward the Gospel.

Great example that some demon possession is very subtle and does not involve bizarre behavior or criminal insanity.

[Act 8:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/act/8/14/s_1026014) Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John,

[Act 8:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/act/8/15/s_1026015) who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

[Act 8:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/act/8/16/s_1026016) For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

[Act 8:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/act/8/17/s_1026017) Then they *began* laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.

The water baptism did nothing for anyone except make a public display of identifying with the followers of TLJC…those Samaritans were saying yes… I am a follower of Christ by doing water baptism.

This was a day of Pentecost for a large group of Gentiles in that area.

Keeping in mind that we are at the very beginning stage of the CA and the completed cannon of scripture is still about 30 years away.

/Water baptism came first, before the baptism of the Spirit, because at this time they were still dealing with an O.T. pattern. The fact that the Holy Spirit had not fallen on them indicates that they were first of all Old Testament saints similar to the disciples of John (Baptist) in Acts 19.\

Apostle Paul deals with a similar situation at Ephesus in Acts chapter 19.

They were Bels who were already followers and Baptized in the Jordan river by John the Baptist.

 In Acts chapters 8 and 19 we have a parallel phenomenon.

/In Acts 8 we have disciples (in the Old Testament sense) of Philip—they are born again but are minus the baptism of the Holy Spirit (same in Act 19). In both cases they came into contact with apostles and they became New Testament saints.\

 This was only done in the first century where there were Old Testament saints in a handful of areas, and Acts 19 tells us that if Old Testament saints lived long enough they were brought into the Church, the body of Christ. REPEAT

Here in chapter 8 we have the principle that Gentiles are just as much in the body of Christ as Jews, therefore there is a separate Pentecost, the Samaritan Pentecost, to demonstrate this.

What this teaches is that positive followers of John the Baptist were out there at this point and had not yet received the power of the HS and but they were Bels.

Again, I remind people that unless you understand dispensations and how important the completed canon of scripture really is for the CA you will never fully understand your Bible.

/Act 8:18 Now when **Simon saw** that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, **he offered them money**,\

Simon is still focused on power…authority and wealth.

There are some scholars and teachers that believe Simon was never born again and for that matter they teach this whole group of Samaritans was only giving lip service to God and when the apostles came and laid hands then they believed or became born again.

I remind you that it is faith alone in Christ alone and no one can save another person simply by laying hands on them…it is a private decision made by each of us.

In verses 12 & 13 it clearly states that this large group of Gentiles believed in the gospel that Philip taught them and so did Simon the magician.

And when we line scripture up against scripture we see a very similar circumstance happening to Paul in Acts 19 so I warn you to study this well before you come to your own conclusion.

There is another factor to add into the mix here I’ll show in a moment.

Look what Simon now wants-

[Act 8:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/act/8/19/s_1026019) saying, “Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”

/[Act 8:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/act/8/20/s_1026020) But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!

Peter is telling this man you do not have the gift or authority necessary to be an apostle. Greed has consumed you and Peter is warning this man.\

Power lust for authority and money have clouded this man’s judgment.

[Act 8:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/act/8/21/s_1026021)“You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

/[Act 8:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/act/8/22/s_1026022)“Therefore **repent** (*metanoeō*) of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

Peter is warning a brand new Bel who needs to deal with MA sins.\

MET-TA-NOY-YA is that Greek verb meaning to turn away from sin…to change direction.

We do not see the Apostles try to warn this man about his faith in Christ. Peter warns him about his MA & washing this sin from his walk.

[Act 8:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/act/8/23/s_1026023)“For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity.”

Peter is pointing directly at MA sins of the soul. Just because you become born again doesn’t mean you immediately sky rocket to SM.

[Act 8:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/act/8/24/s_1026024) But Simon answered and said, “Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.”

Simon simply will not put in the effort to grow up spiritually and is still mesmerized by the power and authority instead of gaining ground in his own spiritual walk.

/No one can lay hands on you to make you BELIEVE in Jesus, just like no man or woman can walk you toward spiritual maturity. The effort and responsibility will fall upon each of us, individually. This is why inequality exists on earth & heaven.\

Simon was a man consumed with approbation lust and also a deep thirst for wealth which for many years he received under false pretenses.

Now as a Bel God was not going use him in this type of position at least not at this early point in his spiritual walk.

Many Bels want to hit the spiritual lottery two weeks after salvation and yet they haven’t grown an inch inside the plan of God.

/Jesus sent His new teachers out (Mat 10) with everything they needed, the gospel and words to enlighten lost souls, also a divine power source through the word & Spirit. But He did not emphasize financial stability because Jesus wanted these men to have faith in what He had already taught them.\ REPEAT

The HS would work within them as they ventured outward….reminding them of the early lessons from the sermon on the mount.

/Mat 6:25“For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, ***as to* what you will eat or what you will drink**; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?\

Remember they had already learned this possibly months earlier. And this was their first step outward as evangelist which was a large portion of what they were to do at first. Evangelize… and then they would learn to teach BD and finish the NT as well.

They needed to recall BD and step out in faith.

/Mat 6:26 “Look at the birds of the air, that **they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns**, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?\

The emphases is not on collecting money, nor is it on the apostles bringing money with them…this has a multi-layered lesson wrapped up in it.

What does TLJC tell them… don’t bring your wallet or worry about collecting anything for your wallet.

[/Mat 10:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/10/10/s_939010) or a bag for *your* journey, or even two coats, or sandals, or a staff; for **the worker is worthy of his support**.\

There were religious leaders like the Pharisees and Scribes and also fake healers back then and legitimate men who understood holistic healing methods and all of them charged a price in some form or another.

/Now real truth and the real Messiah is going to be presented and those who teach the word need only rely on God’s grace & His logistics. God is the one who promotes not man.

Psa 75:7 But God is the Judge;
He puts down one and exalts another.\

No matter how many financial blessings a church or a pastor is receiving if it is not from God there will be a reckoning for that man or that church at some point.

Many people force themselves or manipulate themselves into positions of authority for financial gain and approbation. Yet it is God who promotes not man.

/1Sam 2:7 “The LORD makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts.\

For the apostles this first mission is basic evangelism 101. Preach the gospel speak about the kingdom of God now here on earth.

TLJC was preparing them for a long ministry of ups and downs and relying on the power of the HS and His word to sustain them.

/Greed in any form (approbation, wealth or authority) will never be the staple of a church ordained by God. God’s leaders are to forge forward with truth, popular or unpopular and let the chips fall where they may. God will supply the people, funds and support for a church to prosper **at the LEVEL HE desires**, not a standard manipulated by the flesh.\