

SERIES: LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR
HAS COME, WEEK 56

TITLE: TEAM MINISTRY

TEXT: LUKE 8:1-3

INTRODUCTION: (1) **I'VE TITLED OUR SERMON
FOR TODAY, "TEAM MINISTRY."**

* BUT IT MAY SURPRISE YOU ABOUT WHOM
MADE UP JESUS CHRIST'S MINISTRY TEAM AT
THIS TIME IN HIS GALILEAN MINISTRY.

** AND THE SURPRISE TO SOME OF YOU WOULD
BE WOMEN WERE A PART OF JESUS' MINISTRY
TEAM TRAVELING WITH HIM.

*** NOW THE 12 AS A PART OF THE MINISTRY
TEAM TRAVELING WITH JESUS IS NO SURPRISE,
THOSE ARE THE MEN HE WAS TRAINING TO
TAKE OVER FOR HIM AFTER HIS DEATH,
RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION.

**** BUT WOMEN ON HIS MINISTRY TEAM?

(2) I MEAN IN A CULTURE WHERE WOMEN PLAYED INVISIBLE ROLES, IN A JEWISH SOCIETY WHERE WOMEN WERE USUALLY TREATED AS **2^D CLASS** CITIZENS, ENJOYING FEW OF THE RIGHTS THAT MEN HAD.

* BEYOND THAT FOR A RABBI TO HAVE WOMEN ACCOMPANYING HIM WAS VIRTUALLY UNPRECEDENTED.

** AND LIKE MANY OTHERS IN THE FIRST CENTURY, THE RABBIS HAD A LOW VIEW OF WOMEN AND REFUSED TO TEACH THEM.

*** AS A RABBI **NAMED ELIEZER SAID: "THE WORDS OF THE TORAH SHOULD BURN RATHER THAN BE TAUGHT TO WOMEN."**

**** BUT JESUS TAUGHT WOMEN, RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM WOMEN AND USED WOMEN ON HIS MINISTRY TEAM, WHICH MADE JESUS SOCIALLY UNACCEPTABLE BY RABBINIC STANDARDS.

(3) TO SAY IT ANOTHER WAY, JESUS' ACTIONS
IN USING WOMEN IN MINISTRY WAS
POLITICALLY INCORRECT AND FLEW IN THE FACE
OF CONVENTIONAL JEWISH WISDOM.

* NOW CLEARLY JESUS DID NOT CHOOSE
WOMEN AS APOSTLES OR AUTHORS OF THE
NEW TESTAMENT.

** AND THE NEW TESTAMENT IS CLEAR THERE
ARE NO WOMEN PASTORS OR ELDERS, AND
THAT HUSBANDS AND FATHERS ARE IN
HEADSHIP IN THE HOME, THERE IS MALE
LEADERSHIP IN THE FAMILY AND THE FAMILY
OF FAMILIES, THE CHURCH.

*** AND IT IS NOT A MATTER THAT MEN ARE
SMARTER OR BETTER OR SUPERIOR TO WOMEN,
BUT THAT GOD HAS CLEARLY DEFINED
DIFFERENT BIBLICAL ROLES FOR MEN AND
WOMEN, AND THOSE ROLES ARE VERY
IMPORTANT IN GOD'S PLAN AND MINISTRY.

**** HOWEVER, WOMEN ARE USED GREATLY IN MINISTRY AND IN THE HOME, AND ARE KEY TO CHRIST BEING GLORIFIED IN HIS CHURCH AND IN THE FAMILY.

(4) AND LUKE IN HIS GOSPEL HIGHLIGHTS A NUMBER OF WOMEN THAT GOD USES FOR HIS GLORY, FROM ELIZABETH, MARY, ANNA, THE **WIDOW OF NAIN, PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW, THE SINFUL WOMAN WHO ANOINTS JESUS' FEET IN WORSHIP, MARY AND MARTHA, WOMEN WHO GATHERED AT THE CROSS, WHEREAS THE 12 FORSOOK HIM AND FLED AND JESUS FIRST APPEARED TO A WOMAN AFTER HIS RESURRECTION.**

* AND MY POINT IS, WHEN WE TALK ABOUT TEAM MINISTRY, WE MUST INCLUDE WOMEN AND NOT DIMINISH THEIR ROLE, BUT IN BALANCE LIMIT THEIR ROLE TO WHAT GOD HAS ORDAINED.

**** AND FOR SOME, IT'S DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN THAT BALANCE.**

*** BUT ALSO AS WE TALK ABOUT TEAM MINISTRY TODAY IN LUKE 8:1-3, THE 12 ARE **MENTIONED, AND THE MANNER OF CHRIST'S** MINISTRY IS COMMUNICATED.

**** AND UNDER THE TITLE OF TEAM MINISTRY **WE'LL LOOK AT 3 POINTS. NO. 1 THE** PREACHING AND PROCLAMATION OF JESUS IN MINISTRY, V. 1A; NO. 2 THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN MINISTRY AT THIS PARTICULAR JUNCTURE OF **CHRIST'S MINISTRY, VV. 1B-3A;** AND NO. 3 THE PROVISION FOR JESUS AND THE TWELVE IN MINISTRY, V. 3B.

(5) AND WITH THOSE 3 POINTS AS OUR ROAD MAP TO FOLLOW, LOOK AT V. 1A PLEASE WHERE **WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE** PREACHING.

I. THE PREACHING, (READ V. 1A)

A. NOW THE FIRST TWO WORDS OF V. 1 "SOON AFTERWARDS" OR "AFTER THIS" OR THE PHRASE "NOW" OR "AND IT CAME TO PASS," DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE, REFERS BACK TO THE INCIDENT RECORDED AT THE END OF LUKE 7 WHERE THE WOMAN WHOM HAD BEEN **FORGIVEN MUCH ANOINTED JESUS' FEET BECAUSE SHE LOVED HIM MUCH FOR HIS FORGIVENESS OF ALL HER SINS.**

* AND THAT INCIDENT IS CONTRASTED BY A SELF RIGHTEOUS PHARISEE WHOM DID NOT LOVE JESUS AT ALL.

** WELL, SHORTLY AFTER THAT EVENT, IN **KEEPING WITH HIS FATHER'S DIVINE TIMETABLE, JESUS BEGAN "GOING AROUND** FROM ONE CITY AND VILLAGE TO ANOTHER" IN GALILEE FOR THE FINAL PHASE OF HIS MINISTRY THERE WHICH WILL EXTEND THROUGH LUKE CHAPTER 9 VERSE 50, AS GALILEE WILL NO LONGER BE HIS BASE OF OPERATION AS JESUS IS DETERMINED TO GO TO JERUSALEM IN JUDEA.

*** AND I HAVE BROUGHT THIS UP A NUMBER OF **TIMES, BUT IT'S CLEAR, JESUS ALWAYS ACTED IN ACCORD WITH HIS FATHER'S WILL.**

**** AND THIS IS SO CLEAR IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN THAT JESUS IS ON A DIVINE TIMETABLE.

1. FOR EXAMPLE IN JOHN 5:30 JESUS SAID: "I DO NOT SEEK MINE OWN WILL, BUT THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME."

* SO IF WE COULD ONLY PARAPHRASE THAT AND MAKE APPLICATION OF THAT TRUTH IN OUR LIVES, MY LIFE, EVERYDAY.

** I (RAY RUSS) DO NOT SEEK MINE OWN WILL (SELFISH SELF-CENTERED LIVING) EACH DAY, BUT THE WILL OF HIM WHO SAVED ME AND NOW SENDS ME AS HIS WITNESS, HIS SERVANT IN MINISTRY INTO THE WORLD. WOW IF THAT COULD BE OUR DIRECTIVE, THAT MISSIONAL VIEW EACH DAY.

***** BUT JESUS ALSO SAID IN JOHN 4:34, "MY FOOD IS TO DO THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME," THAT'S MY SUSTENANCE, THAT'S MY PASSION AND PURPOSE.**

**** AND THEN JESUS SAID IN JOHN 6:38 (QUOTE IT). ALSO QUOTE JOHN 9:4.

2. AND THEN RETURNING TO LUKE JESUS SAID IN LUKE 5:32 (QUOTE IT). ALSO QUOTE LUKE 19:10.

* NOW THE QUESTION FROM THESE VERSES IS, HOW DID JESUS CARRY OUT **THE FATHER'S WILL** IN CALLING PEOPLE TO HIMSELF FROM ONE CITY AND VILLAGE TO ANOTHER IN OUR TEXT TODAY?

** WELL, IN LUKE 8:1 IF YOU LOOK BACK, JESUS **DID IT BY "PROCLAIMING AND PREACHING THE KINGDOM OF GOD."**

*** AND NOTE WITH THAT SAID, JESUS IS NOT EMPHASIZING POLITICAL OR SOCIAL ISSUES, HE IS NOT ENGAGED IN PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSION, HE IS NOT TEACHING SELF-HELP FELT NEEDS LESSONS BASED ON SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY.

**** JESUS IS GOING AROUND AT THIS PERIOD OF HIS MINISTRY FROM ONE CITY AND VILLAGE TO ANOTHER IN GALILEE PROCLAIMING AND PREACHING THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

3. THE METHOD WAS PROCLAIMING AND PREACHING **THE METHODOLOGY OF CHRIST'S** MINISTRY AND THE MESSAGE, THE CONTENT OF HIS PROCLAMATION AND PREACHING WAS THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

* NOW LET ME ATTEMPT TO BREAK THIS DOWN A LITTLE BIT.

** THE VERB PROCLAIMING IS THE GREEK WORD KAY-ROOS-SO WHICH MEANS TO PUBLICLY AND AUTHORITATIVELY HERALD, IT IS AN OFFICIAL MESSAGE THAT MUST BE HEARD AND OBEYED.

*** IT MEANS TO HERALD, TO PUBLISH VERBALLY SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN DONE.

**** AND THEN THE VERB PREACHING IS THE GREEK WORD U-ANG-GHEL-LID OR LEE-ZO, FROM WHICH THE ENGLISH WORDS EVANGELIZE AND EVANGELISM ARE FROM, WHICH REFERS TO ANNOUNCING THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL.

4. THUS TO PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS TO PROCLAIM, TO HERALD, TO ANNOUNCE THE GOOD NEWS THAT SINNERS CAN BE DELIVERED **FROM SATAN'S RULE OR KINGDOM OF DARKNESS INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S SON.**

* AND THAT IS DONE BY CALLING PEOPLE TO REPENT OF THEIR SINS AND TURN IN FAITH ALONE TO JESUS CHRIST ALONE.

** **SO ENTRANCE INTO GOD'S KINGDOM, HIS** RULE, HIS AUTHORITY COMES THROUGH REPENTANT FAITH, THAT SINNERS NEED TO BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL.

*** AND EVERYWHERE THAT JESUS WENT IN GALILEE AT THAT TIME, FROM ONE CITY AND VILLAGE TO ANOTHER, HE WAS PROCLAIMING AND PREACHING THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

**** MEANING EVERYWHERE THAT JESUS WENT BECAME HIS PULPIT, THUS THE PUBLIC SQUARES, THE VALLEYS, THE HILLSIDES OF GALILEE BECAME HIS PULPIT. THAT WAS HIS BASIC MINISTRY ALONG WITH HEALING, MIRACLES AND TRAINING THOSE THAT WERE WITH HIM. AND I SAY TRAINING BECAUSE OF WHAT IT SAYS ABOUT THE PEOPLE THAT WERE WITH HIM, LOOK BACK TO V. 1 PLEASE WHERE **WE'LL SEE OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, THE PEOPLE.**

II. THE PEOPLE, (READ V. 1B)

A. NOW THE LAST WORDS OF V. 1 COMMUNICATE THAT THE 12 WERE WITH HIM, TRAVELING WITH JESUS.

* AND I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT AT THIS **STAGE THE 12 ARE "WITH HIM" MEANING THEY** WERE OBSERVING JESUS, LISTENING TO JESUS AND LEARNING FROM JESUS.

** AND THE 12 HAD NOT YET STARTED PREACHING, BUT WILL BEGIN IN LUKE CHAPTER 9, AS THEY ARE SENT OUT TO PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND TO PERFORM HEALINGS, FOR LUKE 9:2 **SAYS:** "AND HE SENT THEM OUT TO PROCLAIM THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND TO PERFORM HEALING."

*** NOW WHAT ARE THE 12 DOING AT THIS POINT IN **LUKE 8:1? WELL, THEY ARE "WITH HIM" WATCHING, LISTENING AND LEARNING.**

**** AND ALTHOUGH JESUS MINISTERED A LOT TO THE HUGE CROWDS THAT FOLLOWED HIM AROUND AT THIS TIME, YET THE LORD FOCUSED MUCH OF HIS ATTENTION ON THE 12, WHOM APART FROM JUDAS ISCARIOT, THE ONE WHO WOULD BETRAY HIM, THE 11 WOULD CONTINUE HIS MINISTRY AFTER HIS ASCENSION.

1. JESUS WAS TRAINING HIS MINISTRY TEAM. THEY WOULD BE A TEAM OF MINISTRY PEOPLE THAT WOULD CARRY ON HIS WORK.

* JESUS Poured his life into the 12 and turned them into men who would turn the world upside down.

** THERE WAS MULTIPLICATION OF MINISTRY THROUGH TRAINING A MINISTRY TEAM FOR THE FUTURE.

*** AND BELOVED PAUL THE APOSTLE ALSO UNDERSTOOD THE PRIORITY AND IMPORTANCE OF POURING HIS LIFE INTO A LIMITED GROUP OF PEOPLE.

**** FOR AS HE IS INSPIRED TO WRITE HIS LAST EPISTLE, A PASTORAL EPISTLE, HE WRITES TO WHOM? TIMOTHY.

2. AND PAUL WRITES 3 PASTORAL EPISTLES, I TIMOTHY, TITUS AND II TIMOTHY TO TWO MEN THAT HE TRAINED IN MINISTRY.

* AND IN HIS LAST PASTORAL EPISTLE BEFORE HIS EXECUTION AT ROME, PAUL SAYS IN II TIMOTHY 2:2 THESE WORDS. (QUOTE IT).

** NOW FOUR GENERATIONS ARE COMMUNICATED HERE, PAUL, TO TIMOTHY, TO THE FAITHFUL MEN, AND THE OTHERS THAT WILL BE ABLE TO TEACH OTHERS ALSO. AND THIS MARKS THE ONGOING PROCESS OF MULTIPLICATION THAT HAS CONTINUED DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES TO US.

*** PAUL LOOKED FOR FAITHFUL MEN TO TRAIN. AND WE SHOULD LOOK FOR FAT PEOPLE TO TRAIN. F - FAITHFUL PEOPLE, A - AVAILABLE PEOPLE AND T - TEACHABLE PEOPLE.

**** WE LOOK FOR PEOPLE COMMITTED TO **CHRIST'S CHURCH AND INVEST TIME IN THE** WORD WITH THEM SPENDING TIME WITH THEM, DEVELOPING, TRAINING THEM FOR MINISTRY.

3. AND JESUS CERTAINLY DID THAT WITH THE 12.

*** BUT NOT ONLY WERE THE 12 "WITH JESUS", SO ALSO SOME WOMEN WERE TRAVELING AND MINISTERING AT THIS TIME. LOOK AT V. 2 PLEASE.**

B. READ V. 2. NOW NOT ONLY WERE THE 12 MEN, THE APOSTLES, TRAVELING WITH JESUS, **BUT SURPRISINGLY TO SOME, "ALSO SOME WOMEN."**

* AND 3 WOMEN ARE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY AND THESE 3 WOMEN HAD BEEN HEALED OF EVIL SPIRITS, DEMON POSSESSION AND PHYSICAL SICKNESSES.

** AND THE FIRST ONE NAMED IS MARY WHO WAS CALLED MAGDALENE.

*** **AND THERE WERE A LOT OF MARY'S IN THAT DAY, SO THE PLACE SHE WAS FROM IS LISTED, MAGDALENE AFTER HER HOMETOWN OF MAGDALA, WHICH WAS ON THE WESTERN SHORE OF THE SEA OF GALILEE, ROUGHLY 3 MILES NORTH OF TIBERIUS.**

**** AND CHURCH TRADITION OFTEN HAS LABELED HER AS A FORMER PROSTITUTE, BUT NOTHING IN SCRIPTURE SUPPORTS THAT CONCLUSION.

1. SHE WAS DEMON POSSESSED. IN FACT SEVEN DEMONS WERE CAST OUT OF HER. THUS SHE WAS DELIVERED FROM THIS SPIRITUAL BONDAGE OF SEVEN DEMONS, A SEVERE HOPELESS SITUATION BY JESUS.

* AND THERE IS NOTHING ROMANTIC IN SCRIPTURE ABOUT A SENSUAL PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HER AND JESUS, IT WAS A SPIRITUAL PURE RELATIONSHIP OF LOVE AND MINISTRY.

** MARY HAD BEEN DELIVERED FROM DEMONS THAT MUST HAVE TORMENTED HER AND WAS DELIVERED FROM THE POWER OF SIN IN SALVATION.

*** AND TO WHOM DOES JESUS APPEAR TO FIRST AFTER HIS RESURRECTION? MARY MAGDALENE, QUOTE MARK 16:9.

**** AND MARY LOVED AND SERVED HER LORD, AND IS APART OF THIS MINISTRY TEAM AT THIS TIME.

2. NOW A 2'D AND THIRD WOMAN ARE IDENTIFIED AND FOUND IN V. 3. LOOK AT V. 3A PLEASE.

C. READ V. 3A. **NOW THE 2'D WOMAN IS JOANNA AND SHE IS THE WIFE OF KOO-ZUH WHO WAS HEROD'S STEWARD.**

*** NOW JOANNA'S HUSBAND WAS A HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL IN HEROD ANTIPAS' REALM OF POWER, HIS COURT. AND A STEWARD WAS AN ADMINISTRATOR, AND POSSIBLY AN ADMINISTRATOR OF HEROD'S ESTATE, A HIGH RANKING TRUSTED OFFICIAL.**

**** AND WE SEE THAT JESUS' MESSAGE HAD**
REACHED INTO THE PALACE OF HEROD TO
JOANNA, A WIFE OF A HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL.

***** AND JOANNA LIKE MARY MAGDALENE WAS**
A WITNESS TO JESUS' BURIAL AND
RESURRECTION IN LUKE 23:55 AND LUKE 24:10.

***** SO SHE FOLLOWED JESUS TO THE END, BUT**
THAT'S ALL WE KNOW ABOUT HER.

****** AND THEN THE 3'D WOMAN IDENTIFIED IS**
SUSANNA AND THIS IS THE ONLY TIME SHE
APPEARS IN SCRIPTURE, SO NOTHING IS KNOWN
ABOUT HER.

1. HOWEVER SUSANNA, JOANNA, AND MARY
MAGDALENE WERE A PART OF THE MINISTRY
TEAM OF JESUS AT THIS TIME, SERVING AND
GUESS WHAT, PROVIDING FOR JESUS AND THE
12. LOOK BACK AT V. 3 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL
SEE OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, THE PROVISION.

III. THE PROVISION, (READ V. 3 AGAIN)

A. NOW MARY, JOANNA AND SUSANNA ALONG **WITH "MANY OTHERS" ACCORDING TO V. 3 WERE** A PART OF THE TEAM MINISTRY, A MINISTRY TEAM SUPPORTING JESUS AND THE 12, FOR THE WORD THEIR MAKES REFERENCE TO THE 12.

* SO THESE 3 WOMEN AND MANY OTHER MEN AND WOMEN FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED JESUS AND THE 12 OUT OF THEIR OWN PRIVATE MEANS, FROM THEIR OWN PERSONAL FUNDS.

**** AND JESUS' MINISTRY DEPENDED ON** FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM OTHER BROTHERS AND SISTERS AS MINISTRY TEAM PARTNERS.

*** FOR THE 12 LEFT EVERYTHING TO FOLLOW JESUS INCLUDING THEIR PROFESSIONS AND JESUS HAD NOWHERE TO LAY HIS HEAD ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 8:20 (QUOTE IT).

**** AND ACCORDING TO LUKE 23:34 AT THE **TIME OF JESUS' DEATH, HE OWNED NOTHING** BUT THE CLOTHES HE WORE.

1. SO JESUS' HUMBLE MINISTRY FINANCIALLY WAS SUPPORTED BY 3 WOMEN AND MANY OTHERS.

*** AND LIKEWISE TODAY, CHRIST'S CHURCH, THE LOCAL CHURCH WHICH GOD HAS ORDAINED AS HIS PLAN FOR THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL AND TRAINING OF HIS PEOPLE, SURVIVES BECAUSE OF A MINISTRY TEAM OF PEOPLE WHO FAITHFULLY GIVE MUCH THAT HAVE MUCH AND THAT GIVE LITTLE, BECAUSE THEY HAVE LITTLE BUT ALL FOLLOWERS OF JESUS SHOULD FAITHFULLY GIVE.**

IN WRAP UP AND IN APPLICATION: (1) 3 QUICK THINGS. NO. 1 WHERE WOULD FAITH BIBLE CHURCH BE TODAY WITHOUT FAITHFUL SINGLE WOMEN, WIDOWS AND MARRIED WOMEN, WHOM FAITHFULLY AND SYSTEMATICALLY ARE INVOLVED IN MINISTRY AND GIVING. THANKS BE UNTO GOD FOR YOU.

* AND YOU MAY HAVE A DIFFERENT ROLE IN THE CHURCH THAN MEN, BUT NO LESS IMPORTANT, YOUR MINISTRY TO THE FAMILY AND FAMILY OF FAMILIES IS ESSENTIAL.

** NO. 2 GIVING IS MINISTRY AND IS A PART OF **CHRIST'S WAY TO TAKE CARE OF HIS CHURCH.** THANKS BE UNTO GOD FOR YOU MEN AND WOMEN THAT FAITHFULLY AND SYSTEMATICALLY GIVE. (I MEAN, WE MET OUR BUDGET LAST YEAR WHICH WAS AMAZING **BECAUSE WE CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT, BUT IT'S A GOD THING.**)

*** AND THEN NO. 3 ARE YOU MENTORING, DISCIPLING, TRAINING ANYONE?

**** HAVE YOU TAKEN ANYONE UNDER YOUR WING? YOU SAY RAY, NO ONE HAS POURED THEIR LIVES INTO ME.

(2) WELL, BECOME A LINK IN THE CHAIN THAT GOES BACK TO JESUS. TRAIN YOUR FAMILIES, THEN TRAIN AND DISCIPLE OTHER MEN, WOMEN TRAINING OTHER WOMEN.

* **FOR THAT'S THE** MINISTRY OF MULTIPLICATION. PASS THE BATON. POUR YOUR LIFE INTO SOMEBODY DISCIPLING, TEACHING, TRAINING, EQUIPPING SOMEONE **ELSE TO BE LIKE JESUS. (LET'S PRAY)**