

Series - Rise: Abiding in Purpose

Week 5 Message Title: Released by Pastor Theresa Rosario

Good morning/evening. Today we are on week five of our RISE series.

Week 1: Realize our divine purpose

Week 2: Recognize our unique S.H.A.P.E.

Week 3: Rooted in faith and community

Week 4: Refined into pure silver so that we can reflect Christlike Character

Week 5: Release

Now that we realized our divine purpose to represent Christ to the world, we've discovered how we will uniquely do this and have chosen to get rooted and stay rooted, We can enter into a life long process of being refined. We will never be completely done until Jesus returns. Regardless of how far we are on this journey, one thing is for sure, we can be released into the ministry God has for us right now. Turn to your neighbor and say the time is now.

I tried to think of an illustration of going and being released and the best I could come up with is like a boat that is waiting to set sail. There are many types of boats. Regardless each of the boats in the harbor must have certain things before it sets sail. You need a captain (the one calling the shots and steering the boat), you need coordinates to your destination, you need to unpacked all the heavy baggage so you aren't pulling unnecessary weight that can burn your fuel too fast or even sink your boat. And finally, you need a power source (gasoline, electric, wind). Obviously, you aren't going to go anywhere without power! Then, the boat can be released from the dock and set sail. As we learn how we are to be released, one might ask questions like, "Who is being released? What is being released? How is it released?"

If we are to imitate Christ, then we can look at how his ministry started to understand how ours will. Jesus was released into His full ministry after he was baptized in water and in the Holy Spirit.

"After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy' (Matthew 3:16-17 NLT)."

The very next chapter in the book of Matthew is Jesus being tempted in the wilderness. Of course, Jesus shows us exactly how to overcome. This is a story for another time. What I want us to see today is what happens after the wilderness - Jesus' ministry begins.

We are also released to ministry in our own mission field. What's your mission field? Your family, your school, your work place, where you go for medical check ups, your dentist, the grocery store you frequent. Ultimately, your mission field you is wherever you are.

Many people are still running old reels in there mind that the mission field is for missionaries or pastors. But on the contrary, Jesus comes back from the dead and commissions all of his disciples. Turn to your neighbor and say that means you too. Turn to your other neighbor and say that means me too. Let's look at Matthew 28: 16, 18-20,

“Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!” Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, GO and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ (Matthew 28:16, 18-20 NLT)”

Jesus gives his disciples specific instructions to 1) make disciples 2) baptize them in the name of the father and the son and the Holy Spirit and 3) teach them to obey all the commands he has given. Later on Jesus tells them to wait for the Holy Spirit. It was a time right before he would be leaving them and he knew that they would need the Holy Spirit to accomplish this mission.

“And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from Heaven (Luke 24:49 NLT).”

Holy Spirit's power comes from Heaven and empowers you to do what? To continue the ministry of Jesus in making disciples of all nations. How did Jesus, Yeshua, the Messiah do this? Well let's take a look at Luke 4:14-21, where he basically tells everyone that he is the one that the prophet Isaiah spoke about in Isaiah 61: 1-2,

“Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures.

The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim

that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come. " He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. Then he began to speak to them. "The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!" (Luke 4:14-21 NLT)."

Anointed to:

- Release those in bondage, those held captive by the enemy will be released
- Blind eyes to will see
- Those who are oppressed will be set free
- Proclaim the Lord's favor has come

If this is the Lord's Ministry and we are to continue his ministry, then this is our ministry.

Interestingly, we are much like the disciples where back in the day. Still full of doubt and uncertainty. Jesus implores them to BELIEVE! His understanding of who the Father is and who He is must be the same heart and attitude of every believer if we truly want to be released and see a releasing of His power into our homes, schools, work, community, and cities. In John 14 Jesus is speaking to the disciples who are still asking him basic questions about their Faith and the Father. Let's read his response to them John 14:10-11,

"Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but the Father who lives in me does his work through me. Just BELIEVE that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the works you have seen me do."

Jesus says, "The Father who lives in me does his work through me!" Guess what church, "Christ lives in me and he desires to continue to do his work through me!" And you need to BELIEVE, Christ lives in you and he desires to continue to do his work through you. If we BELIEVE this, then we can boldly step out in Faith and release the ministry of Christ within us to the world around us.

The word Christ comes from the Greek word χριστός (chrīstós), meaning "anointed one". The word is derived from the Greek verb χρίω (chrīō), meaning "to anoint." The Hebrew word for Christ is מָשִׁיחַ (Mašíaḥ, messiah), meaning "[one who is] anointed".

I've come to understand Christ to mean the anointed one and His anointing. This becomes extremely significant when you understand truly what it means to be a vessel and being released into the ministry the Lord has prepared for you. The apostle Paul gives us more understanding of what this "ministry" looks like when speaking of his own ministry to the Church in the book of Colossians 1: 25-29 NIV.

“I have become its [the church’s] servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness– the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord’s people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory**. He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me (Colossians 1:25-29 NIV).”

Does this commission sound familiar? Yes, its the Great Commission for all believers everywhere to go therefore and make disciples. Guess what Church, you have not fully completed your apprenticeship with Jesus UNTIL you are now making disciples by His power at work in and through you! The Spirit of the Lord is not only upon you, His power is within you. It is Christ, the anointed one and his anointing, that will be release through you in order to bring Good News to the poor, to proclaim that captives will be set free, and that will open blinded eyes to see.

When you BELIEVE this power is within you, it will make it easier for you to release it through you. What is the evidence of this life of empowerment and release? It could be more than one thing. One we talk a lot about is LOVE. Today I want to speak on one we don’t speak of as often - BOLDNESS.

When the Holy Spirit came upon Peter in Acts, it is said that he spoke with boldness. Acts 4:13, “The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the scriptures.”

Peter is the same guy who cowardly denied even knowing Christ three times. And now he is boldly preaching the good news of Christ. A transformed life, a change in you, convinces people of Christ’s power. One of our greatest tools we have, as Mona mentioned last week, is the power of our testimony. The difference others see in your life and attitudes since you have believed in Christ becomes evidence for others to BELIEVE!

Boldness is not a personality, its not a tone, its not a communication style or leadership style. Remember we are all uniquely different. So what exactly is it? The Cambridge dictionary defines boldness as a brave and confident way of behaving that shows no fear. God’s perfect love removes all fear, and when we enter into this perfect love, we can operate in his power with boldness. To be bold for Jesus, is not having confidence within ourselves but, rather, having confidence in Him who lives within us. Again, the Apostle Paul speaks of this when explaining and defending his ministry,

“We are confident of all this because of our great trust in God through Christ. It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God. He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant. This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life (2 Corinthians 3: 4-6 NLT).”

We have each been commissioned to go! Therefore, we must RISE and be released as carriers of the Anointed One and His anointing! Be released knowing:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me (YOU), for he has anointed me (YOU) to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me (YOU) to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come. ”

OHANA GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When you think about how the father feels about you, what do you think of? Ask the Father what he wants to say to you right now?
2. When you Read the great commission passage, what is the first thing that comes to your mind? Do you have a hard time believing its is for you? Why or why not?
3. How have you experienced the Holy Spirits empowerment in your life? What do you believe holds you back from experiencing the fullness of the Holy Spirit's empowerment?
4. Who are the people the Lord is calling you to go and minister to? What people groups? Identify one person and commit to reaching out to them this coming week, share that persons first name with the group. Break up into groups of 2-3 and pray for that person together.