

Partnership with God

Acts 1: 4 - 8 Jesus final words

⁴ Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. ⁵ John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

⁶ So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”

⁷ He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

This is not a moment of salvation – just as water baptism is not the moment of salvation (It’s a public confirmation of your conversion and willingness to follow Jesus)

Today is Pentecost Sunday - 50 days after Jesus Resurrection

Jesus final instructions – *wait in Jerusalem until you are filled with the Holy Spirit and Power*

Ten days later 120 were waiting (praying) in upper room the Holy Spirit enter that room like with the sound of tempest – tongues of flames appeared above the heads of each of them and they were baptized (immersed) in the Spirit ... they spoke in languages they never learned and were understood by travelers who heard them praising God –

An unprecedented evangelistic revival immediately followed when Peter boldly stands and proclaims Jesus the Risen Christ/Messiah resulting 3,000 falling to knees to repent and accept Jesus as Lord

On that Day, God established a partnership that would change the world

Today’s message is entitled **Partnership with God**

The mystery is why God chooses to work through frail human beings!

Julie Ackerman ... *The Great Healer*

God has always done it this way ... from Genesis to Revelation the Bible He works His plans through men, women and children

And what are God’s plans for us? **Jeremiah 29:11** The Message

I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.

- God is consistent in His pattern ... The process is developmental for each individual
- It always begins in the heart. He seeks to establish a partnership that is faith based
- He reveals himself in this process, with each step we begin to trust Him and our faith grows
- We find ourselves caring less about self and more about the people around us

☆ This partnership has two parts (partners) – We are ministered too - we minister to others

Any Stanley in his book *Deep and Wide*, includes a list of **five catalysts** – five developmental steps that God uses to grow our faith

- Practical Teaching
- Private Disciplines
- Personal Ministry
- Providential Relationships
- Pivotal Circumstances

Let's focus on a couple of these - using a couple of examples in scripture ...

John 2:1-10 (NLT) The Wedding at Cana

2 The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. ³ The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."

Wedding celebrations in Judea/Israel could last a full week careful planning – to run out would be a severe embarrassment ...

Mary approaches her son ... but it's not a question or a request ... How do you categorize it? It's a demonstration of pure faith

⁴ "Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

Jesus response seems harsh, almost indifferent ... out of character but is it?

But Notice Mary's reaction ...

⁵ But his mother told the servants, **"Do whatever he tells you."**

⁶ Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus told the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” When the jars had been filled, ⁸ he said, “Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies.” So the servants followed his instructions.

⁹ When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over. ¹⁰ “A host always serves the best wine first,” he said. “Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!”

Did you pick up on Mary’s instructions to the servants?

This isn’t just because she is Jesus biological mother, in her thirty years with Him, knew and trusted him – even though Jesus had done no great miracle as yet.

She didn’t know what her son would do ... but was confident he could handle any situation.

Private disciplines - Mary physically spent time with Jesus the way we need to spend time Spiritually

Visit from Jehovah’s Witnesses this past week (personal ministry – private disciplines)

Let’s compare this to another account in John six chapters and a year later.
[John 6: 1 - 15 \(NLT\) Jesus Feeds Five Thousand](#)

¹ After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. ² A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick. ³ Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him. ⁴ (It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.) ⁵ Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, “Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?” ⁶ He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip replied, “Even if we worked for months, we wouldn’t have enough money to feed them!”

⁸ Then Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up. ⁹ “There’s a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?”

Can you see the scenario of Personal ministry in a Pivotal Circumstance?

Philip and Peter are two of Jesus' closest associates – they had responded to Jesus' call and were being trained while they were also involved in helping minister to the people

A partnership relationship

John writes ... Jesus already knew what He was going to do - He was teaching Philip in class lesson in the middle of a **Pivotal situation** .

¹⁰ **“Tell everyone to sit down,”** Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. ¹² After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, “Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted.” ¹³ So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.

Think about the different reactions of Mary and Philip - Mary responded to something of a rebuke by demonstrating complete faith in Jesus ... while Philip looked at the impossibility of the situation and called it as he saw it – *we can never do it even if we worked for a month!*

Note Jesus is not disappointed in Philip or Peter ... this was a way to grow their faith in Him.

⇒ This is what the Holy Spirit is trying to do in each of our lives, to build faith to trust Him in every situation no matter how impossible it may appear.

In Both Cases: instructions were given – there was a part for them to play

The servants did as they were told – to fill up the water jars – no easy task, 180 gallons from a well – Result the best wine of the week

In Philip and Peter's case they were instructed to bring the child's gift and have the people sit down for a meal. – Two sardines and five biscuits ... this is going to be embarrassing!

Five thousand feed more like 10,000

When the day of Pentecost arrived, Jesus had been gone for 10 days. He was no longer there physically, to direct or instruct but He delivered on His promise –the Holy Spirit filled them with power

They were now more equipped in His absence then the three years they were physically with Him.

God is still looking to partner with people who will trust Him ... who He can minister to, who will allow Him to develop faith

Are you listening to His voice this morning? Is your heart open? Let's Pray