GOD'S ACTUALIZED POWER & WISDOM

Pastor Bernard Mukwavi

October 16, 2022

Matthew 12:38-45

Introduction

Matthew chapters 11 to13 record the rejection of Jesus by some people, especially the religious leaders. There was also controversy, and confusion surrounding the identity of Christ among those that followed him.

1. The _____ to the story

a. Picking of heads of grain on the Sabbath.
b. Healing a man with a shriveled hand in the Synagogue on the Sabbath.
c. Freeing a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute.
d. Jesus was the gentle servant described by Isaiah 42:1-4.

Isaiah 42:1-4

"[1]Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. [2] He will not shout or cry out or raise his voice in the streets.

[3] A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; [4] he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope."

2. The _____ Suggestion

a. Healing of a demon-possessed man prompts people to wonder if Jesus is the Son of David.
b. Pharisees have a different explanation.
c. Jesus argues that Satan is not casting out Satan.

3. The Demand for a _____

a. Religious leaders ask Jesus for a sign.
b. The only sign they will be given is the sign of Jonah.
c. The citizens of Nineveh recognized the truth of Jonah's message, and the queen of Sheba recognized the greatness of Solomon's wisdom.

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4. Christ Crucified Is _____ Power and Wisdom

a. God's power and wisdom is actualized in the Christ.
b. The mission of the church is to preach this message to all people groups.
c. We should take this message to all people that they can be saved, and be set free in Jesus.
d. Need for the Christians to believe this message.

1 Corinthians 1:18–25

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

22 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

1. **God's power revealed.**
2. **The death and resurrection of Jesus is the power of God for salvation.**
3. **Christ is the wisdom of God for salvation. No one else could take the sins of the world. No other argument.**

Conclusion

As we proclaim Christ, we should be aware of God's actualized presence in Christ among us. We preach the message of Christ that has power to save and transform lives. It's not our power or wisdom that will transform people. Christ offers us more than reformation but transformation