



“Jesus’ Take on Power”

Radical Jesus Series #5 May 22, 2011 Cypress Bible Church Dave Gibson

Two elections ago I became addicted to RealClearPolitics.com and I...

- **My belief:** “If *my* guy wins, *we* will be ‘*in power*’ and *life will be good and safe for me.*”
- **Corollary:** “If *my* guy loses, *they* will be ‘*in power*’ and *life will be bad for me.*”

Some Preliminaries about Power:

Preliminary #1: We can lust for power because we think it “saves” us in some way.

Preliminary #2: Each one of us has power of one kind or another.

Preliminary #3: Power can be used in two starkly different ways.

Some Principles about Power:

Principle #1: Authentic and absolute power resides with God alone.

- **Jeremiah 32:17, 27**

Principle #2: Jesus controlled and invested His power fully, for the good of others.

- **Matthew 11:29**

Principle #3: We must control and invest our power fully, for the good of others.

- **Galatians 5:23**

Core Truth for Today: We must control and invest our power fully, for the good of others.

- **“So what?” for me as an individual?** Do I need to stop (mis) using my power in some way? Do I need to start using my power in some way for the good of others?
- **“So what?” for us as a family?** “What could our family do to use one of our kinds of power for the good of others?”

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

Core Truth for Today: We must control and invest our power fully, for the good of others.

- **Today.** Please read Jeremiah 29:17, 27. Please reflect on the power of God and on the places that you have looked for power. Are there ways that you need to trust Him more for the exercise of His power? Are there ways in which you have elevated power in other sources above God?
- **Monday.** Please reflect on the New Testament definition of “gentleness” as “power under control.” Remember the illustration of the wild horse that is powerful but often destructive versus the “broken” horse that is powerful but productive. Are there any truths or applications for your life in all this?
- **Tuesday.** Please read Matthew 11:28-30 and Philippians 2:1-11. Please reflect on Jesus’ use of His power from these passages and many others where His use of His power comes through. What are the lessons for you?
- **Wednesday.** Please read Galatians 5:22, 23. When I am submitted to the Holy Spirit for His control on a moment by moment basis these 9 traits become more and more a part of my life. If my power is not fully controlled and invested for the good of others (i.e. I am not gentle.) then I am clearly not submitting to the control of the Spirit. What about starting every day with this prayer?

“Holy Spirit of God I submit to You today—through the entire day, moment by moment. You control my *thoughts* and You control my *words* and You control my *reactions* and You control my *decisions* and You control my *dreams* and You control my *desires* and You control my *actions* and You control my *relationships*—You control it all please. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

- **Thursday.** Please ask God to show to you any ways that you need to stop (mis) using your power in some way. Give this some thought and prayer and time for reflection please. What changes will you make?
- **Friday.** Please ask God to show you any ways that you need to start using your power in some way for the good of others. Give this some thought and prayer and time for reflection please. What changes will you make?
- **Saturday.** To be ready for tomorrow morning please read any passages you can find on God’s truths about honoring Him with our sexuality.

Note for Connection Groups: The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: www.cypressbible.org (Quick Menu / Connect / Sermon Based Small Group Material).