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Substance of Sermon preached by our Pastor
on Sunday Afternoon, May 25. 1980

Lesson. Acts 2. vv. 14-47.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Matthew 28. vv. 18-20.

Let us notice the beautiful order of the sacred and divine subject that relates to the method of our exalted Redeemer through the ministry of the Spirit in salvation, calling out from the race of mankind of His dear elect people. There are three main things: the first is the glorious foundation truth, "All power is given unto me." An amazing word of consolation, hope, blessing when Jesus said to them, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." If you feel anxious,- His dear ministers are tempted and tried,- this is a divine word used by the Lord Himself to dissipate fear and encourage and strengthen us. As I felt fearful relative to to day and tomorrow, the Lord whispered in my soul this blessed word, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." That is the foundation, and we shall seek to be led into it and to expound.

Apart from the glorious victory of the Lord Jesus in pursuance of the Covenant of Grace and the divine decree of salvation; apart from His wondrous accomplished work of atonement and the exercise of His Kingship; apart from the pouring out of the Holy Spirit there would be no divine, efficacious power, unction, life, savour. There is a word that is inter-related. "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." He said, as we read this morning to His dear disciples who became His apostles, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." That is an expounding word concerning the ministry of God's ordained men. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." I will spend a few moments to say, every man ordained by God for the ministry of the gospel of redemption is divinely anointed, invested with power and ability from Heaven. No man can take it away: no man can bestow it. It is a rich, heavenly anointing of His servants to preach the

everlasting gospel. "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Wonderful and precious this is. Kings and priests were anointed in the Old Testament days. Take David: wonderful, beautiful, vital, touching is his case. The Lord had rejected Saul,- a solemn rejection. He was disobedient. I wonder if we are sufficiently concerned with that. Saul disobeyed his God: the Lord had given him an explicit directive and he was rejected. The Lord raised up another king. There is a sweet word concerning the anointing. The Lord sent Samuel with a horn of oil for a specific purpose, and He gave him a directive as to where to go to Jesse, and how led of the Spirit he was! For Jesse made his senior sons to pass before Samuel, and initially ~~their~~ appearance made them favourable candidates, but the Lord had not chosen them. "Are here all thy children?" Oh no, there is one more, the youngest, and he is with the sheep. And Samuel said, "Send and fetch him." So young David appeared before Samuel and the Lord spoke. "Arise, anoint him: for this is he." and the anointing oil flowed over David.

"Go ye therefore," This is in the language inspired in the Text. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations." How vital and precious this is, and the Lord goes on, and will do until His Second Advent; to the end of time. David was anointed in the midst of his brethren. It is not those who appeared marvellous candidates: it is one they did not bring to the feast,- David the shepherd boy, the stripling. Now the horn is empty: the oil flowed over David. "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." He was anointed. So in this dispensation all God's ministers are divinely anointed. "But tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." The Lord knows how long, whether for a short time or longer. You will know, if I reiterate, when dear George Drake was dying at the age of 56,- some of you may be 56.- the dear Pastor for a few years watered the flock, the seed sown by his godly predecessor. He said to them, "This is living, not dying." His deacons said to him, "Pastor, what shall we do about the pulpit?" There was a man in the Church, a hearer who had never preached. Mr Drake said, "Put the Book in the hands of William Vine, and I say no more" Soon he was

in bliss. After a little while William Vine was preaching and the Pastor. "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." There was the anointing. Take another portion of the Word of God and put it by the side of this. "And all Israel from Dan even to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord. " They all knew because the Lord had chosen him. There is a spiritual intuition the Lord gives His people. The Lord reveals His secrets to them. Samuel's horn was empty. "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore."- a divine commission with holy, heavenly authority. "Go ye therefore...behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." Do you see what is vital concerning all this? From the start to the finish it is the work of the Holy Ghost. "Go ye therefore," a divine commission and holy command.- "and teach all nations." The ministry of the Spirit is a teaching ministry in all the precious, cardinal doctrines divine concerning the Being of God, the glorious doctrine of the Trinity, the fall of man, the entrance of sin into the world. the ruin and wretchedness of man, the salvation wrought by Christ, the New Covenant of Grace, the accomplished work of redemption of our Great High Priest. It is a word of attraction. "And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word." That is the beauty of it. "Yea, he loved the people; all his saints are in thy hand: and they sat down at thy feet." This largely relates to scholars being taught by the divine Teacher with the infinite, boundless attraction of His glorious Person. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations ," not one. They came from the Holy Land through Europe to Britain. It is the purpose of God that His Word should complete its circuit through this planet. We little know how many love and fear God in all nations. They may feel solitary: some would love to meet another they could commune with. "Go ye therefore and teach all nations." (This is a little summary as we begin. I want to be led of the Spirit.)

"and teach all nations," Shall they receive the benefits and blessings of the gospel? Yes. "baptising them," Obviously there are profound mysteries among the Lord's people. I can never understand the ministers of the past who never saw baptism: it is most plain. You will say, "Why? I can go to the House of God without being baptised." I understand. You will need to be baptised of the Spirit, "teaching them to

observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." It is the Lord's command, His ordinance. The dear Saviour gave His people a blessed command. "If ye love me, keep my commandments." It means more than baptism: "teaching them to observe," The Lord gave me a promise in the beginning of my ministry that the place would be built up with families and the Lord has done it. What would you think who are parents, if your children said, "I do love you," but they never obeyed you? You would be grieved. If you said, "here is a command to you," and they disregarded it, what would you say? What do ^{you} think the dear Lord feels if He has blessed and favoured you and you do not do what He says? "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." -all things. It is not only the sacred ordinances; it is all the precepts. "baptising them. Baptism is a seal that brings them to My Church, to the communion of saints. - baptising them." The Lord wears the crown. You crown Him and He crowns you. My friends, I would like to say in a fatherly way to you, if the Lord is with you in a special way, and with the minister who administers the sacred ordinance, this is one of the most precious and sacred things to know on earth, with the Dove of Peace, the voice of the Father, the presence of the Lord, "buried with him by baptism into death" The good Lord lodge it in your breast. "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." You may say, "I will show the Lord a little of how good He has been to me, and my value of it and my gratitude. I will do something for others. I will minister to the afflicted, remember the offerings," but "If ye love me, keep my commandments." "baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." It is the King speaking, and it is His own blessed ordinance and way. I did not expect to spend time on this particular point, but we have got choice things here. I remember well when I was favoured to take my dear one through the water I felt the Lord had crowned my ministry, and it is so. The Lord does crown His own work. Precious soul, whether you are a young man, a young lady, dear friends, flock; if you ^{have} got the work of God in your soul He will crown it because "all power is given unto me. Go ye therefore and teach all nations." I am sure one who has a godly exercise will feel inadequate, but they teach according to the inspiration of the Spirit and the anointing. "teaching them to observe all things," and they are inspired

by the Holy Ghost. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations." I believe one day it will be seen that there was a purpose in this to day. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." God has the glory.

You will see in the order of the beautiful subject, to these there is an amazing promise. You cannot expect to put in much of a claim if you are disobedient. To these the Lord speaks and says, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." There is a promise for you; for the men anointed and those they baptise. "And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." He is with you always. It is astonishing as to how exceedingly fearful we are when we have such a word. One feels it would be impossible, but it is in the warmth of love and receiving the heavenly anointing, and one is willing to spend and be spent for Christ in His blessed work and service and for the good of His Church. "And, lo, I am with you always," not just before baptism; at baptism, and after, to the end. "And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." What a seal! I feel a singular experience of unction in delivering this to you now, and I believe there is a divine purpose in it. The Lord knows, for "Divine decrees remain unmoved." and

"His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower."

The friends will appreciate the wish of the preacher by the Spirit to present the subject in a balanced way: the foundation, the command, obedience, then the promise. It is a complete entity. "And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." We have referred to David, when the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him: for this is he." I will name this; it is so wonderful. When the Lord puts a gracious, living exercise in the hearts of godly men anointed for the ministry they do not talk about it. The wife may fear God but they do not tell her, yet there are those who know it. If you speak to those who know it you feel they know it. God tells them. This reminds me of Haywards Heath. See the holy sequel. "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above

it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly,"- showing reverence, humility and obedience. "And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." There it is; the Lord had done it all. He had shown him his wretched state, given him an experience of the glorious truth of God from Christ the Altar. Blessed Altar! and the live coals,- the mercy and truth of God, and continually with the tongs of holy authority and unction do His ministers take live coals from off the altar. "And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged." They have forgiveness, happiness, a redeemed soul. I am not suggesting that all are ministers. What is your ambition? To live to the honour and glory of God. "This people have I formed for myself, they shall show forth my praise." In some of your cases there is a greater end in life than your present position at work: that is not the ultimate, There are those skilled and working in various professions or trades: God has something greater for them. "Here am I; send me." and it was done. An amazing thing this is, and it all relates to the ascension of Christ. The gift of the ministry is the ascension gift of Christ.

So dear friends, look at the body of divine truth there is here. "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." I hope before the day is over I shall have been favoured to dig a little into it. It is a wonderful ^{word} to me and to the people of God. It answers all questions; everything is of God. "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth," and the King speaks from His seat of regal power and glory. "Go ye therefore,- go." Have you ever been amazed at the courage and skill of

the apostles? Nothing could daunt them. I remember a little conversation I had once with Mr J.K.Popham. Knowing what a brilliant brain he had, what a great scholar he was and feeling my own inadequacy; also recognising what a tremendous advantage a man had who had sat under his ministry, I expressed to him my feeling of limitation. He said to me, "Was Peter limited, inhibited? He was only a fisherman." Our own apostle was brought up at the feet of Gamaliel, but the things he had thought gain he counted loss for Christ. Was Peter limited or inhibited? No. There is everything in this: "All power is given unto me,- all authority- in heaven and in earth. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you" and the anointing of the Holy Ghost teaches us all things. Divine inspiration teaches us all things. It is unfolded and revealed. "Go ye therefore and teach all nations." It is a wonderful word from another aspect; all types and classes of people, from the highest to the lowest. The Lord said concerning the Great Supper, "Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city",- the passages. They are not always desirable characters ~~found~~ found in the lanes of the city. -"And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the Lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges," you see poor broken people in the hedges; broken humanity. "and compel them to come in." Blessed be God.