

## Sit, Stand, Walk, Run, Pray Part 1: Sit

A Teaching by Ron Brown

*“The people went out to see what had happened; and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting down at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind...” Luke 8:35*

What does it mean to sit in God’s presence? It’s important for us to have the right posture in the work of the Lord as his servants. There is a posture that we have to be in to access the fullness of God’s grace in our lives so that we can be successful in what he’s called us to do.

### Sitting at the Feet of Jesus

In Luke 8:26–39 there is a story of a man who was bound by many demons; Jesus cast them all out and set him completely free. In verse 35, the people came out to see what had happened to this man after he encountered Jesus. When the people came to Jesus, they found the man who had been delivered from demons sitting at the feet of Jesus and they became frightened. What a response! Previously, the man had been filled with demons, naked and terrorizing the community. That’s when the people should have been frightened but they became frightened when they saw him in his right mind, clothed and completely calm, listening and talking to Jesus. What a response to the power of God.

Why would they be frightened that the man was made whole? It was because they had not encountered this kind of power before. They did not understand the ramifications of what it meant for Jesus to come into their community and radically transform the man to where he was completely normal. They didn’t know Jesus.

People who don’t know Jesus become frightened when they see his power at work. For those of us who know the Lord, we know that there is no reason to fear. We don’t have the spirit of fear but a spirit of love, power and a sound mind.

As I was looking at the story, I thought of what an opportunity we have to introduce people to Jesus. There is nothing more profound, more powerful on the planet than someone who encounters the Lord Jesus Christ.

So let us redouble our efforts on evangelism to really love all of the outreaches that happen at all of our locations. I am believing that will grow. We were talking this week about decentralizing the headquarters of Orange County Teen Challenge so that we can reach out into more of the county and not just be in one place. We need to introduce more people to Jesus so they can understand the power of love, the power of grace, and the power of God that transforms our life when his kingdom comes into manifestation. That’s what God wants us to do. He wants us to bring the power of the kingdom, but not so that people will be frightened.

The Bible says in that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom and the beginning of knowledge. So when I look at these people who were frightened, I think how that’s the beginning point for them to ask the question, “What manner of power is this?” so that they can understand that there is a God who loves but there is also a God who is awesome in power and he is able to deliver.

But the man who was delivered from demons was sitting down. He wasn’t standing, he wasn’t prancing around, he wasn’t dancing, he wasn’t rejoicing, but he was sitting at the feet of Jesus. I believe that that’s where we need to be. When our people are delivered by the power of God through the ministry of Teen Challenge, we need to teach them and model to them how to sit at the feet of Jesus. One of the first things



**Stirrings**—inspired by 2 Timothy 1:6, Amplified Version—is an abridged summary of devotionals and leadership teachings by Ron Brown, Executive Director of Teen Challenge of Southern California. They are presented at regular meetings of the TCSC Leadership Team as part of its commitment to excellence, personal growth, and spiritual vitality. **Complete audio is available at <http://www.teenchallenge.org/stirrings> or scan this QR code.**



we want to do is start talking but sometimes we need to just be quiet. Sit at the feet of Jesus so that God can work on the inside, then we will have something to say.

As a matter of fact, after he sat at the feet of Jesus (Luke 8:39), Jesus told the man, "Now return to your family, return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you." So, you have to sit with Jesus first before you can go back to your family, before you can go back to your

house and share what Jesus has done. So we need to teach our students to sit in the presence of God so that they can be refreshed, they can be restored,

their minds can be regulated, they can be in their right mind—so that when they are talking, they are talking with the mind of Christ.

### Listen to the Lord's Instructions

In Luke 10:38 and 39, Jesus was traveling and came to the house of Martha and Mary. It says, "Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to his word."

Martha was a worker bee. She was busy with many things. In the ministry of Teen Challenge and all the work that we do for the kingdom, we can get very, very busy. You know as I read through some of the reports of all the outreaches that we have done at our centers over this last couple of months through the summer, I thought, "My, we have been a busy, busy people." We have so many things going on. We have all kind of events that we have been doing in honor of our 50th anniversary. We are busy, busy people.

So, I begin to wonder if we have been more inclined to be like Martha than to be like Mary. It's very important that we sit at the feet of Jesus so that we can listen to his words. She wasn't just sitting there daydreaming, but as I said, she was sitting there and she was listening to his word. We must practice the discipline of sitting in the presence of God and listening to what he speaks. Tim was sharing earlier that the Lord began to speak to him about how many people he would need to have on his staff to carry the workload and he got that in the time of prayer as he was sitting and listening to Jesus.

It is very important that we listen to the Lord. The word of the Lord says the steps of the righteous are ordered by God, but the only way that our steps are going to be directed and ordered by him is we have to listen to his instructions. We need to take time, put time into our schedule to sit at the feet of

Jesus and listen to what he has to say so that we will be able to fulfill all that God has called us to do.

### Wait for the Father's Promise

Now I want to talk about sitting in another way that maybe we haven't thought about. I want to read a passage in Luke 24:49 because I think maybe we haven't fully understood what Jesus' commandment was to his disciples. This was at the end of his ministry when he was getting ready to return to the Father. Jesus told them to do something and I have mentioned this before, but I want to bring this again because I think it's very, very important that we understand what it means to sit in the presence of the Lord.

In Luke 24:49, Jesus says, "Behold, I am sending forth the promise of my Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." When we sit in God's presence, that is when we get clothed with power from on high. I think I might have mentioned to you before that the phrase "stay there" does not mean to tarry and just sit around. It literally means "to sit at a place of ruling and exercising dominion and authority in the spirit." What do I mean by that?

When Jesus told his disciples to go to Jerusalem, he didn't tell them to go and sit around in the upper room, have a social and pass around the bread, and tell stories about, "Remember when Jesus was here and we saw the lame walk and the blind see?" They were not to sit around and just tell stories about Jesus, but literally, they were to get a grip on themselves and come to the place of recognizing that God had given them authority to rule in the spirit realm. Now, they had seen this when he sent the 70 out and God gave them power over unclean spirits.

But when he says "you are to stay" or "you are to tarry," that word is translated in most of the scriptures "tarry" or "wait" but the word is not wait. It is the Greek word *kathidso* and it literally means

to sit down in a place of authority and rule.

That's what he told his disciples

to do. He told them to go to Jerusalem, go to the upper room and the promise of the Father is going to come but "I want you to go and sit in a posture in your spirit of authority, dominion, and rulership and I would meet you there with the power of my presence and I will fill you with the Holy Spirit."

And so, it wasn't that they were supposed to go and beg, "Oh God, please give us the spirit that you said." We have had all kinds of things that have happened in church tradition about what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit, but

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literally what Jesus was telling them was to “Go, sit down and I want you to remember all that I have taught you. I want you to remember all of the stories that you have listened to and recognize that the power of the kingdom has come upon you and the power of the kingdom is within you and you need to come to the place where you recognize that you rule and you reign no matter what the circumstances are around you, and when you speak, you speak with authority because God is in you and that God is with you.”

### Understanding Brings Authority

And when they came to that place of understanding that they were ruling and reigning with Christ, then suddenly there came a sound from heaven as a rushing mighty wind and it filled the house where they were sitting. Not that they were just sitting around the table, but it was a posture in the spirit that they were literally sitting in a place of recognition that God had called them to preach the gospel in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the Earth. We have to come to a place where we understand who we are in Christ and that’s literally what Jesus was telling them, “You need to understand that you are my servant, that you are my child and that I have anointed you, that I have appointed you to bring the gospel to the entire world and when you encounter opposition from principalities and powers or even from the forces that are in this world, you speak my word with authority and expect the power of the kingdom of God to back you up.”

And so what Jesus really told them to do was, “Go to the upper room and come to an understanding of who you are.” They weren’t supposed to go there and beg and plead and wonder why Jesus had gone to heaven but they were supposed to come to the realization, allow the revelation of God to burst forth in their spirit, to sit down comfortably in a state of rest and exercise authority, rule and government—and that’s when the power of God comes on us. It’s from that place that we begin to exercise the rule and the authority of God, then his power shows up in order to bring forth what he has spoken to us.

It’s the same word that is used in Hebrews 1:3 where, speaking of Jesus, it says “He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.” In other words, he *kathidso*. He came to that place of rest and began to exercise power and authority. It’s the same word from that which was translated “stay” or “wait” or “tarry” in Luke 24:49. It seems unusual that the same word that would be used there is also the word that’s used in Revelation 3:21 where he says, “He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

And so what Jesus is saying is that we overcame by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of our testimony and we are

to sit down in that place of authority and begin to exercise the rule and the dominion and the Lordship of Jesus Christ here in the earthly realm.

In Ephesians 2:5–8, it says, “Even when we were dead in our transgressions, [God] made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him...” With who? With Christ. “...and [he] seated us with him,” with Christ, “in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.”

Paul was writing to the church of Ephesus to say that when we were born again, when we came to know Christ, that literally God took us in Christ and he seated us in heavenly places and from that place we are to

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rule and to reign and to walk in the realm of authority that the Lord Jesus Christ has given to us. When you look at the preponderance of Jesus’ teaching throughout the gospels, Jesus taught preparation, he taught responsibility, and he taught accountability that we have to prepare ourselves for God to use us. We are responsible for walking and all that he has given to us and we are accountable to him for the sphere of influence that he has given us. Now, what do I mean by this?

### Learning Servant Leadership at the Feet of Jesus

If we are going to be serving in a place of servant leadership under the lordship of the Lord Jesus Christ, then we must prepare ourselves. One of the ways that we prepare ourselves is by regularly sitting in the presence of the Lord, listening to his word and saying “God, speak to me for your servant is listening.” We have to be prepared for our leadership. If we just get up and keep doing the same thing over and over again, expecting things to change, we will find ourselves 5 years from now, 10 years from now basically in the same spot that we are in now but God wants to take us from faith to faith and from glory to glory.

I think many times we get in motion before we listen and the Lord is calling us back, saying, “You must be prepared for the role of leadership that I have given to you because there are things that are going to confront as you begin to move forward, things that you can’t anticipate, that you can’t see, and you won’t have the right response if you are not moving in the kingdom authority and the kingdom wisdom and the kingdom power that is available to you through the Holy Spirit.”

And that’s why he told his disciples, “Go to Jerusalem

and you must come to grips with all that I have taught you and all that I have modeled before you and then when my power comes upon you, when the Holy Spirit comes, then you will stand up and you will begin to move out from this place and fulfill all that I have called you to do and even more because greater works you would do because I am going to the Father." But we will never do the greater works if we don't learn how to listen to the Holy Spirit.

### **Be Still and See God's Vision for Us**

So, it is very, very important that we learn to sit in the presence of the Lord. It says that we are seated with him in the heavenly places—not going to be but right now. Now, we know that there is an ultimate fulfillment of this when the Lord comes back and we who have been redeemed and we have been justified by the blood of the Lamb would enter into that glorious place with him. But right now God wants us to begin to walk in kingdom power and kingdom authority right here in the earthly realm.

And he doesn't want us to beg. For instance, when we look at our budget and say, "Okay, my budget is not coming together like I wanted to...we have some concerns at the Teen Challenge center here and there." Instead of us getting frantic and starting to lean on our own understanding and wringing our hands and becoming fearful, we are to sit down and say, "Okay God, I am sitting in the place that you have called me and I am going to speak and declare your words. You are Jehovah Jireh, the God who provides and I thank you, God, that

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you give me anointed ideas and strategies, that you give me divine appointments and divine connections so that I would be able to meet the people that you have already lined up, who are going to support this ministry." You begin to speak that, you begin to declare that, you begin to expect that and then you get up and you begin to walk that out from revelation knowledge and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you.

But many times what we do is immediately go into survival mode and we begin to do things. We begin to be like Martha. We start doing more work. It's like, "Okay, I have to go have another event. I have to go do something." And so, we begin to take things in our own hands and we start doing all of this work. It's like when Jesus said, "Martha, Martha, you are busy about so many things, but Mary has chosen that good part, as she has come to sit at my feet and that will not be taken away from her." We need to come back and say, "Yes Lord, I am going to be busy about the work of the kingdom,

but I will not substitute busyness for listening to your voice." Just because you are busy does not mean you are advancing and moving forward. There are a lot of folks who have a lot of activity but they are not progressing. We think the more we can do with our hands, the more progress we will make. But activity does not equal progress.

It's just the opposite in the kingdom of God. The more we listen to the Lord and allow God to give us his vision, to give us his dream, to give us his strategy, to give us his tactics on how to advance the work of the kingdom and get a sure word from God, that's when we are going to see results. It's not about what

we can come up with but it's what God has already come up with, he

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has already planned for our success. He has gone before us to make crooked places straight and rough places smooth. He has already gone where we are going. Hallelujah!

And so he says, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). "Come and follow me and I will make you successful in the leadership role and responsibility that I have given to you in the kingdom." "Come and follow me." And I think many times what we do is we say, "Come on God, follow me and bless this," and it doesn't work that way. He says, "Wait and let me give you anointed strategies and you begin to speak my word, speak my promises with the authority and the force of heaven."

That's what he told his disciples to do. He didn't tell them to go beg for the Holy Spirit, he didn't tell them to go in there and be despondent because they saw the Lord go to heaven and now they didn't have Jesus with them physically. He says "Go, sit down and get a grip. Sit down, get a hold of yourself, get a grip on your emotions, recognize that you are my children and you begin to move from that place of sonship, you begin to move from that place of authority knowing that you are an heir of the Father and you are joint heir with the Son and that what you speak, I will be with your words. I will be with your mouth," as he said to Elijah, "that the words you speak, I will confirm them with signs following.

This is what God is calling us back to. He says, "Come and sit in my presence, let me speak to you before you get in motion or you would end up doing a whole lot of stuff that's going to frustrate you, wear your body out, make your mind torn. You will become double-minded and you will have very little to show for it." So, this is the season the Lord saying, "Come, sit down in a place of rulership and authority and allow the power of the kingdom of God to collide with your circumstance, to bring forth the vast richness of the kingdom of God, so that

provision will be made for you on every level." God help us to sit in his presence in Jesus' name.

### Realizing the Spirit's Voice Brings Boldness

That's what Jesus told his disciples to do. He told them to go and sit down in a place of authority and rulership, exercising kingdom dominion. He did not tell them to go and just sit around, and say, "Hey! Remember, Jesus, when he did this and..." No, no, no, no. He says, "Come and understand what the implications of what I said mean for you personally and corporately as the people of God." And I tell you what, when they came out of that upper room, they came out of that room filled with power of God. They understood that everything in the Earth belonged to their Father, they understood that no power on earth could stop his word. So when they were told, "Stop preaching in that name," they prayed for boldness. Why would they pray for boldness? Because they understood the power and authority that they walked in. They said, "Give us

more boldness so that we can preach even more in your name and see even more miracles."

So they were unstoppable. We are the same kind of people they were, the 120 that came out of the upper room. We look at them as though they are some other kind of specimen or other kind of being. We are just like them! They were filled with doubt and confusion at different points in their lives. They went through all the same things that we go through but they came to terms of understanding what Jesus meant when he said, "Go and tarry until you get the power." They understood who they were in Christ. May God give us that insight, that inspiration and that revelation that we are made out of the same stuff as Peter and John and all of the other apostles who were gathered in that upper room. We have the access to the same power that they have access to and we can sit down and rule in authority in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen! So be encouraged today. Hallelujah!

*(Note: All scriptures are taken from the NASB.)*

