



Word Notes: Sunday 15/04/18

Tony Hodge: Collateral Blessing

**Key Text: Matthew 27:50-54**

When Jesus gave his life on the cross the power released was frankly incredible. Not just a torn curtain, nor some kind of earthquake but a number of holy people released from their graves and walking about town. The world might fret over “collateral damage” when using powerful targeted weapons but the ways of God are not the ways of the world – a collateral blessing as God’s power focuses on Golgotha hill causes a “mercy fallout” in the words of the Hillsong’s “The time has come”.

If then we are carriers of God’s presence do we expect to see some collateral blessing around our lives just as when Peter & John went to pray in Acts 3? What can we do:

- Get connected – listen again to Ben’s talk from Palm Sunday
- Move out – Jesus’ Great Commandment was to “Go”. So Go!
- Flow – get rid of the stopper in your life, don’t keep the Holy Spirit to yourself but let him flow. Step out in small things and grow into bigger things.

**Discussion**

What particularly impacted you from this week’s message?

Throughout both Luke and Acts, Luke presents a picture of the Holy Spirit primarily as one who comes to empower His people for the purpose of the Great Commission and to bear witness (Acts 1:8 and Luke 24:47–48). What does it mean for you as an individual and us as a group that the primary purpose for the Spirit’s coming is to be our great partner in carrying out the mission of God, empowering us to be witnesses for Jesus?

In what areas of your life could you partner more with the Holy Spirit? What could this look like? What could it lead to?

Where do you sense God has sent you or is going to send you to live out His Great Commission? On a scale of one to ten, how passionate are you for this aspect of mission?

**Pray Together**

Take the time to invite the Holy Spirit. Perhaps begin with prayers of worship and thanksgiving, then you may choose to follow these suggestions for specific prayer:

You could pray:

- and thank Jesus for His promise of Luke 11:13, ‘how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’
- for a fresh empowering from God
- for individual callings and for the Great Commission – that we would be faithful and obedient and always seeking help from the Holy Spirit