

THE POWER TO PRODUCE WEALTH PART 03

Rise, Slay, Eat

SCRIPTURE READING:

And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him, Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them. But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them, saying, I was in the city of Joppa praying: and in a trance I saw a vision, A certain vessel descend, as it had been a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came even to me: Upon the which when I had fastened mine eyes, I considered, and saw fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And I heard a voice saying unto me, Arise, Peter; slay and eat. But I said, Not so, Lord: for nothing common or unclean hath at any time entered into my mouth. But the voice answered me again from heaven, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. And this was done three times: and all were drawn up again into heaven.

- Acts 11:2-10 (KJV)

OPENING PRAYER

Dear Lord, I thank you that today you will activate us to arise in places in which we have been passive and inactive. We have misunderstood your blessing; we know that it is free, but we didn't realize that it's not cheap. We open our hearts to you tonight, that our ears might hear you command our hearts to rise, to slay, and to eat. We give you the praise and the glory, in the name of your son, Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit we pray these things, Amen.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. God does not promise to give us wealth; he promises to give us the power to produce it. What do you think is the difference, and what difference does this distinction make to you?
2. To arise means to assume a position prepared for action, to move your heart from the place of passive waiting to active seeking. Can you think of any sense in which God is calling you to prepare for action in a place in which you have been passive?
3. The blessings of God are free, but they are not cheap. In order to possess the pearl of great price, you've got to sell all you have and buy the field! What does this mean to you?
4. God loves to send clean people into unclean spaces so that he can redeem those unclean spaces and manifest his kingdom there. Does this apply to your life in any way? If so, how? Do you see any sense in which this truth will change your outlook on your future?
5. Has this lesson inspired you to think/act in any way that differs from the way you thought/acted before hearing the message?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we are so thankful to you for being the Author and the Finisher of our faith. We pray tonight that you would cause our faith to prompt us to work, and that we would in turn work that which is pleasing to you through Jesus Christ. To him be glory forever, Amen.