

SUFFICIENT: The Power Test

April 26, 2026

Message Summary.

Power promises safety and control, and it can't deliver peace. In John 19, Pilate knows what's right yet trades truth for self-protection under pressure. Fear of people, approval, groupthink, and control can pull us into compromise. Jesus shows true power by surrendering to the Father. Peace comes when Jesus is sufficient, and fear and control stop running our lives.

Key Scripture Summaries.

John 19:12-16 | Pilate caves to pressure ("no friend of Caesar") and hands Jesus over.

Luke 22:54-62 | Peter denies Jesus to stay safe; fear can make good people compromise.

Proverbs 29:25 | Fear of people traps us; trusting the Lord brings safety.

1 Samuel 15:24 | Saul admits the root of compromise: "I feared the people and gave in."

Nehemiah 6:10-13 | Enemies hire intimidation to push Nehemiah into sin and discredit him; fear as wisdom.

1 Corinthians 1:10-13 | Factions divide the church; identity is attached to sides instead of Christ.

James 4:1-2 | Fights and quarrels come from desires within; wars "out there" often start in the heart.

Matthew 4:8-10 | Jesus refuses a shortcut to power; He will not worship anything but God.

Start Talking.

1. What's a time you felt pressure to "keep the peace" even though it meant staying quiet?
2. When you hear "power", what comes to mind (control, influence, approval, etc.)?
3. Describe a situation in which you feel the strongest pull to manage your image or avoid conflict.

Start Thinking.

- How can fear of people feel like wisdom in the moment? (Proverbs 29:25)
- In 1 Samuel 15, Saul says he "feared the people." What does people-pleasing look like (at work, home, online, friendships)?
- James says conflicts come from desires within us (James 4:1-2). What desires tend to fuel groupthink (winning, being right, feeling safe, feeling superior)?

- Jesus refuses shortcuts to power (Matthew 4:8-10). What does Jesus show us about "true power"?



Start Sharing.

1. Which "power pressure" hits closest to home right now (approval, fear, control, winning, or image management)? Why?
2. Where do you feel most tempted to compromise to stay safe (work, family, friendships, social media, church, etc.)?
3. Have you ever felt the pull to spin the truth ("technically I didn't lie...") or stay silent to avoid fallout? What happened?
4. Where do you see groupthink showing up in your own heart (defensiveness, labeling, refusing to listen, needing the last word)?
5. Which question from the Sufficient Audit stands out most? Why?
6. What would "courageous truth-telling" look like for you this week in one relationship?

Start Praying.

Jesus, You are sufficient. Forgive us for trading truth for safety, approval, control, or winning. Free us from fear and pride. Give us the courage to speak with love, the humility to listen, and the grace to surrender control. Help us follow You and live in Your peace. Amen.

Start Doing.

- Identify the pressures that compel you to compromise, and pray, asking Jesus to be sufficient.
- Say with courage: "That's not true; I need to be honest; I was wrong; I forgive you."
- Detox groupthink. Before you post, text, or argue, ask: "Am I trying to win or follow Jesus?" Listen first and speak with honor.
- Release one thing you're gripping in prayer, then take a step of obedience.
- Share a hidden struggle with a safe person and ask for prayer and accountability.
- Ask for prayer: "I need help taking a next step."