Peter had just healed a man who had been crippled from birth. Many of the people were amazed. Yet, the Jewish leadership was unhappy because what Peter had done had unsettled things as they were. Peter, then, is arrested because he did something good. He healed a man and told him and others about Jesus. No deed goes unpunished, as they say. The leadership demanded to know by what power and in whose Name Peter had healed the man. Of course, Peter healed that man with the power of Jesus and in the Name of Jesus. The power of Jesus also gave Peter the words of what to say when challenged by the world.

The power of Jesus helps us heal others and ourselves, too. It helps us minister in a broken world. It helps us survive in a broken world. And it gives us the words to say when we face challenges from the world. It also provides us with the power to continue our ministry to bring kindness, love, and healing to others despite the world's challenges.

We've all had situations occur when we've been trying to do the right thing, and someone blasts us for it. And they ask, something like, "Who do you think you are? What gives you the right to do whatever? But if we're following Jesus and doing what Jesus calls us to do, we're doing it in Jesus's Name and through His power. Jesus never deserts us. Jesus doesn't even abandon us when we do wrong. But when we're doing what we're called to do, Jesus's power goes with us in an extraordinary way.

Let's think about how that plays out in our lives.

Marie's widowed mother is dying. Marie has to make all kinds of decisions about her mother's care. One day her mother's left hand swells because of an injection, and the aide calls Marie. They need to get the wedding ring off her finger because the hand is swelling, but Marie's mother won't let them. Marie has to decide to have the ring removed as her mother kicks and screams. The power of Jesus helps her make that decision and sustains her through it.

A few weeks later, a big snowstorm comes and puts the electricity out in her mother's house. The house is getting cold. Marie knows her mother wants to stay in the home until she dies, but it's too cold without electric heat. Marie prays and decides to move her mother into her own home until the electricity is restored. Her mother complains and fusses at Marie about this. Marie made this decision in the Name of Jesus and with Jesus's power. That power sustains her as her mother yells at her.

Let's look at Suzy. Suzy prayed a lot about where she felt Jesus was leading her. Finally, she decided that she was called to lead her congregation to reach out to all those who were different – whether because of sexual orientation or disability, or race – and welcome them into their fellowship. This welcoming would help heal the hurts of past exclusion. Depending on Suzy's congregation, this call may or may not be well received. Yet, whatever happens, Jesus's power is with her and she undertakes this ministry in Jesus's Name.

Now, let's look at John. John had prayed a lot about where he felt Jesus was calling him. He decided that he was called to work with the migrant workers – to be sure they had enough to eat and were treated fairly. But John runs awry of the farmers who see him as meddling, and they give him a hard time. Maybe they even file trespassing charges because he was on the farmers' land visiting the agricultural workers. Yet John is ministering through the power of Jesus, and the power of Jesus sustains him through the difficulties with the farmer.

Like Peter, all three of these people I've described felt called to lead a ministry of healing. While we may or may not identify with the specific calls of Marie, or Suzy, or John, we each are called to a ministry to others in the world. Sometimes we are called to a specific ministry to help our relatives or friends. Sometimes, we are called to lead our church family to go along with us. Sometimes we are called to undertake a ministry alone. We don't have to fear that we can't accomplish what we're called to do. We don't have to feel down because someone yelled at us when we tried to do good. Whatever we are called to do, we do with the power of Jesus. And Jesus and His power go with us on that ministry. When we are criticized for it, Jesus is there. When the ministry goes well, Jesus is there.

By what power and in whose Name do we minister? We minister in the Name of Jesus and by His power. And that power gives us all we need.