

INSPIRED WORD

July 11, 2018

EXHORTATION / SCRIPTURE

At our pastoral team meeting earlier this year, we realized that the Lord was asking us to cross from where we had been for 30 some years as this prayer community, to cross over the Jordan River and go into a new place – a new place and we didn't know how we were supposed to go, what we were supposed to do but we're just supposed to go. And we have been going since that time. But because it's a new place, we're going to ask again for the power of the Holy Spirit that comes in the grace of the baptism of the Holy Spirit so that the Holy Spirit will be with us in this journey across the Jordan into the new land. And I was reading in Joshua just before I came up here that what the Lord said to Joshua was this: *Be strong and courageous* (**Joshua 1:9**). And I believe that's what He says to us. Be strong and courageous, because He said, *"I am with you wherever you go"* (**Joshua 1:9**). And that's why we're going to ask tonight for the grace of the baptism of the Holy Spirit to be renewed in us so we can be strong and courageous and remember that the Lord is with us wherever we go.

Teaching – The Power of Pentecost

PRAYER

Lord, we thank You for the new thing that You are doing in each and every heart. O Jesus, enable us to put You first in our life like we never have before and to open ourselves fully to the gifts of Your Holy Spirit. We say, "Come, Holy Spirit, come. Make Your home in me; mold me, meld me, fill me, use me." Glory to You, Lord, thank You.

SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

We praise and glorify the holy name of God. What Ray was talking about is right out of **Acts 1:8**: *You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.* And then it goes on to **John 14:12**: *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will you do."* These are the words of the Lord and then we have: *When two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus, there I am with you* (**Matthew 18:20**). And when you pray and you believe, the size of a mustard seed is only the amount of faith you need (**Luke 17:6**). And when we pray, two or more are gathered in His name and we have the Creator of heaven and earth between us while we're praying. Can miracles not happen? Let's praise and glorify the holy name of God.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

Proverbs 10:20-22: *The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is worth little. The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of wisdom. The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.* Father, we just thank You that You have spoken righteousness to us tonight, the righteousness which is Yours. Your righteousness, Your silver tongue of righteousness is our portion tonight. We praise You and exalt You and magnify Your holy name. For You alone are worthy – worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb, worthy the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Worthy, worthy are You, O Lord, righteous and true, holy and just. Righteous is the Lamb of God, righteous is the Lamb, the holy Lamb of God.

SCRIPTURE / SHARING / EXHORTATION

I came across this scripture the other day and it's **2 Corinthians 1** – well, it starts a little bit earlier but the last line of the section is: *That is why we utter the Amen through him, to the glory of God (v. 20)*. Before I get to the rest of it, when I read this little passage that I'll get to in a moment, it made me think of something. When it comes to slogans, what's the one that is anti-drugs? Exactly – Just Say No. I mean, it's common, it's familiar, it's short and sweet, but it's powerful. And I was thinking, you know, back when I was younger, when I might have been around that kind of crowd and drugs would have been offered and I had more access to them, I was thinking that it would have been nice to have had that slogan – Just Say No. You don't have to think about it. The drugs get offered to you and you don't have to think, "Well, should I or shouldn't I? What are they going to think? Maybe I'll try it now, maybe later; I'll just try it once." Just Say No. Make it simple; just make it simple. This passage is **2 Corinthians 1:19-20:** *For the Son of God, Jesus Christ ... was not Yes and No; but in him it is always yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why we utter the Amen through him, to the glory of God.* If our slogan was Just Say Yes... and Ray mentioned this a couple times in his introduction talk to just say yes. It's that simple – just say yes to God. He says yes to us; He gives us what we need; He says, "Yes, I will give it to you. I will renew you in the Holy Spirit. Yes." He says yes to us all the time and all we have to do is say yes right back at Him. Yes, I will do what You want me to do; I will use the gifts that you give to me. Just Say Yes. You don't have to think about it; you don't have to be afraid; you don't have to think, "Well, maybe now" or "What will people think." Just Say Yes – it's that simple.

SCRIPTURE

I have a reading – it's **Hebrews 12:2:** *Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

SHARING

I love that line – the founder and perfecter of our faith. It's so not about us, you guys.

SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

Many of us tonight have prayed to be renewed in our baptism of the Holy Spirit and some prayed for the first time to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We have asked for gifts of the Holy Spirit. We have said yes to those gifts. In **Romans 11:29**, it says: *For God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.* He has given you these gifts already; He has answered that prayer. We all have renewed gifts, new gifts, different gifts. So think about what Denise said and Just Say Yes. We get that call to use that gift, don't think "Should I?" Just say yes, for the call and the gifts are irrevocable. They don't go away. Yes!

IMAGE / PROPHECY

I got an image of a huge pike of gifts, some of them large, some of them small – all beautifully wrapped. And we get the words from the Lord saying, "Go and choose the gift you want." And so each of us goes up and we choose the gift that we want, just beautifully wrapped and everything else. And the Lord says, "Now return to your seat and open your gift." And when we open the gift, it's empty. And the Lord says, "You see, my beloved, you have chosen the wrapping and I have chosen the gift and gifts that I shall give to you. Can you believe and can you trust that you have received a gift even though your wrapping was empty?"

SHARING

In this next the song, the phrase that said something to me was that we have new hearts, so let's give praise to God with our new hearts.

SHARING

The phrase that jumped out to me goes with Mel's gift. What was the gift? Great is the Lord – that is the gift. And when we truly get how great the Lord is, the rest just falls into place.

EXHORTATION / SCRIPTURE

You know, in the early days of the renewal, even before my time there, they used to start praise and worship and go to two or three o'clock in the morning because they didn't have an end time. They were just in someone's home. And doesn't tonight kind of feel like that? Let's just keep going and going. Unfortunately we have to lock the church but when you guys were singing "Sing to the Lord, with new hearts, songs of praise", it was beautiful, just beautiful. Thank You, Lord. And we're going to continue this series about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, that we yield to these gifts. We just yield to the Holy Spirit, whether it's wrapped nicely or not, we just yield to the Holy Spirit wherever we go. So be aware this week of where you've yielded to the Holy Spirit. And you know, the Lord has a great synchronicity – I want you to listen to today's gospel **Matthew 10:1**. It says, "*Then he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out, and to cure every disease and every illness.*" And then it goes on to name them (**Matthew 10:2-4**). *The name of the twelve apostles are*

these: first, Simon, called Peter, and his brother Andrew, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John, Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector, James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him. And He gave them instructions; He gave them authority, and then He said (**Matthew 10:7**), *“Wherever you go, make the proclamation: The kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”* And that’s what we are about. And tonight He is saying, “And the names of those apostles are Betsy and Laura and Evelyn and Andrea and Dan and Vicki and Tito and Linda and each person, Letitia, all of you.” Those are the names of the apostles that He is sending today.

EXHORTATION

And if I could just suggest that tonight before you go to bed, tell the Lord “Thank You” and write down one of the words that you got tonight, whether God spoke directly to your heart or that somebody on the team spoke to you that really touched you. Write that down, hold on to it, stick it on your mirror. It’s so easy to forget the miracles that God does. Don’t forget, because writing it down on a scrap of paper writes it on your heart and you will always have it with you... because He was here tonight.