

INSPIRED WORD
August 22, 2018

Teaching – The Power of Pentecost / Gifts of the Holy Spirit

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we are Your people gathered in this place tonight, coming to give You praise and worship, coming to open our hearts to Your grace, coming to be open to the Holy Spirit and open to the charisms of the Holy Spirit that we might minister here in this place both to You and to others. Glory and praise to You, God, glory to You. Touch our hearts, O Lord, that we might give You true worship and praise here tonight. In the midst of all circumstances, any circumstance, Jesus, any, You are there, Your strength, Your consolation, Your guidance.

SCRIPTURE / PRAYER

In **Acts 2:1-4**: *When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all in one accord and in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as a rushing, mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them divided tongues as of fire and one set upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.* Father, we just pray that You just come, O Holy Spirit, come, come Lord Jesus, and fill us with Your holy presence. We pray and exalt and magnify Your holy name, for You alone are worthy, worthy, worthy, worthy - worthy of honor and worthy of glory and worthy of all praise. We praise You and exalt You and magnify Your name, for You are the King, the holy King of kings, righteous and true, righteous in all Your ways. We praise You and exalt You and magnify Your name, for You alone are worthy, worthy, worthy, worthy – worthy is the Lamb, worthy the Lamb of God, worthy the holy Lamb that takes away the sins of the world. We praise You and exalt You and magnify Your name, for You are the King, the holy King of kings, righteous in all Your ways.

PRAYER

Let Your river flow, Holy Spirit, let Your river flow here.

SCRIPTURE

From **Isaiah 55:1-3**: *“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me and eat what is good; your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me that your soul may live.*

IMAGE / SHARING

As Laura said, inspired scripture and inspired word is often meant to be encouraging but she also said sometimes it's just the will of God, and this is one of those times. I had an image the other day at mass. During the Eucharistic prayer, I just closed my eyes and I immediately saw the image of... it was the cross but I only saw a certain portion of it. It was the right angle where the cross beam meets the upright part and it would have been under the right armpit of Jesus, that corner of the cross. And there was just a bunch of ants crawling around in that area; there was no purpose or goal; it just looked like they were crawling around doing busy work; there wasn't any sort of direction; there just wasn't anything. They were just scrambling around. The image did not show Jesus. All I saw was that section of the cross. It did not show Jesus; I don't know if He was there on the cross or not. And the sense that I had after that or what He brought to mind... I think it was Jessica who said a couple weeks ago that she received an inspired word for this community that was "the time is now". And the sense for me was that those ants were this community. We are the ants. And so the time is now. I was very disturbed afterwards. It just left me feeling very unsettled. And I'm really not sure whether... I don't about some of you but I have been antsy. I mean, we say we've crossed the Jordan; I'm antsy, I want something to happen. It's time to stop being ants; it's time to do something. But then I don't know, it could mean that because Jesus wasn't in the image that maybe we have to stop being antsy and just be patient. I don't know, it just left me very disturbed and I know it was meant for this community.

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

On this song, singing it to the Lord, I really feel God singing it to us. We're all He wants. He wants us to be near. And Annie, I feel like God is talking to you through this song because God worked this out for you, and like your boss wants you, Annie, God wants all of us just like that. He doesn't want us to not come because it's too far. He wants to draw us close to Him so that we have a way to be close to God and He wants us in the position He put us in.

SENSE

Yes, and I got a word about Denise's ant vision. Jesus wasn't in her vision, at least that she could see. He wasn't in the picture of the cross and she only saw a portion. Jesus wants us to know that without Him, we will be like ants, busy but without purpose. He wants us to keep Him in our vision, to keep our eyes focused on Him, to listen to Him and to look to Him for every purpose. It was a word of encouragement actually, I think, to look to Him for every purpose.

IMAGE / SENSE

Just to tag on to what Bev and Laura and Denise said, while we were singing that song, I just had this image of the Lord's hands outstretched, like He was saying, "Come on", like how you hold out your hands to a little child who's just learning how to walk and you say, "Just come one, just take that step, it's okay, I'm here." And I got this sense that sometimes we get so lost

in the vortex of things around us that we feel we have no purpose; we feel like we're meaningless; we feel like we've been calling. And the sense that I just had was the Lord saying, and I felt this so strongly, "Take my hand. Just take my hand; it's going to be okay. But you've got to trust me and take my hand first."

SCRIPTURE / WORD OF WISDOM

Today's reading from **Ezekiel (34:2-4)** really said something to me. He's talking to the shepherd who did not take care of the sheep. *He said, "Woe to the shepherds who have been pasturing themselves! You consumed milk, wore wool, slaughtered fatlings but the flock you did not pasture. You did not strengthen the weak, nor heal the sick, nor bind up the injured."* And I feel like there are people in this community that need to hear the word of God, those inspired scriptures, the images, the other inspirations. This community as a whole needs to hear them. And if you're like those shepherds who did not bind up the wounds, who did not heal the brokenhearted, they become like the ants. They were scattered and wandered all over the mountains and the high hills. We are called to serve this community, to serve individually and to serve the whole group and maybe even farther than that with the Holy Spirit 101 and with other conferences we go to. We are called to serve and we are called to strengthen the weak, heal the sick, bind the injured. Let's look for the Lord, the inspiration from the Lord to do that.

SHARING

The word purpose has been sitting with me too and it's been going through all of these interpretations and here it is from another angle. Those ants on a piece of the cross and those sheep in the field, they all have the life of God in them. And they have the purpose and they know it. They don't understand it but they have it coded in. It's called instinct and they follow it and its purpose is from God. Even though they don't see God, they know they have to follow that instinct no matter what or how dark it gets. That way they're a little smarter than we are. And so for us, sometimes there's darkness, sometimes there is light, sometimes we see Him and sometimes we don't. And yet we all have a purpose. And we are loved to the last cell of our bodies, to the last bit of our souls and spirits. If He loves all these little ants and all those little sheep, how much more are you loved? You don't see Him today? He's there and He loves you, each one.

SCRIPTURE

One illustration earlier was about Habakkuk and it just so happens that the Lord laid Habakkuk on my heart. **Habakkuk 3:17-19:** *Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, though the labor of the olive might fail and the fields yield no food, though the flock may be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength; he will make my feet like deer's feet, and he will make me walk on my high hills.*

SCRIPTURE / SHARING / EXHORTATION

“Lord, I am amazed by You, how You love me.” Those are the words we were singing right now. And as Laura was giving her talk tonight, this scripture jumped out at me and it never seemed to fit until now. In **1 Corinthians 14:1**, Paul says, “*Pursue love and strive for the spiritual gifts,*” which we’ve been talking about. And then he goes on to tell them what to do and how to shepherd but at the end (**v. 26**), he sums it up by saying, “*What should be done then, my friends? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. But all things be done for building up.*” And I want to ask you right now, when we came together tonight, did one have a lesson, and one an interpretation, and one a hymn, and we said, “Where is God going with all of this?” But then He put it all together. The ants crawling around – what could that be? And there were many people who came up and gave a little bit and then Marilyn came up and said, “I think we have to be like the shepherds and if we don’t care for those here who are ill, then what are we?” And then Chuck asked how many people need prayer. Did you see the hands that went up? God knew that we had to care for His people. And all the words and all the things God had planned. And so what do we say at the end? Can we sing one more time, “Lord, I am amazed by You”, because I am amazed by Him, aren’t you?

PRAYER

And so Lord, Your love poured out upon us, Your people tonight. We give You praise and thanks. And Lord, as we go from this place, Jesus, let our hearts be Your heart, let our hands be Your hands. Be our strength, be our guide, and help us bring Your love to the people who we meet, to the circumstances You put us in, and to the places You send us. And we ask this, O Jesus, in Your holy name, amen.