LECTIONARY 2025 06 08

**PENTECOST**

JOHN 14:8-27

When I read through the readings for this week, my first emotion was: ‘I’m thankful that I am not on the roster for this week’s message.’ The John reading has much not seen at a superficial reading.

Such things as: v12. ‘most assuredly, I say to you (personally).he who believes in Me, the works that I do, you will do also; *and greater* than these will you do, because I go to the Father.’

v13, ‘whatever you ask in My name, I will do.’

V14 reinforced “if you ask anything in My name, I will do it!”

Seems like a magic formula – doesn’t it!

Then such wonders as:

v16 “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper.”

V17. “He will be in you.”

V20. “at that day you will know that I in my Father, you in Me, and I in you.”

Here is the scene: a room in the upstairs of a home – a largish room, openings in the walls, shutters open to let air flow. Low wooden tables, surrounded by cushions on the raffia floor coverings, candles burning and on the table the provision for the meal. Provisions that had been shared by Jewish people for 1000 years. And for 2000 years since The Passover to recall the sacrifice of a lamb that told the angel of death not to enter that home. The meal was eaten standing up and they were dressed in travelling cloths as commanded by God. A warm and comforting time of family together, yet a time of expectation.

The earth changing difference, - this time, the lamb was with them, alive, in the room.

"The Lamb of God slain from before the foundation of the foundation of the world, from eternity,” HE was there

Jesus spoke many things to them:

v12 “most certainly, I tell you, those who believe in Me, the works that I do they will do also,” how can we walk on water, raise the dead, forgive sins, heal every sickness, recognize and banish demons!” Even more stunning our Lord says that “we, you and I human beings, made of the dust of the earth “they will do greater works than these because I go to the, (no not the Father) but MY Father.”

We are instructed to go into all the world, wherever we are, including here now, Eden NSW is in this world, to live the salvation that we have in Jesus, we are told - heal, look after those in distress, to give a cup of water to someone in need, to comfort the grieving, the children – the person that we are in contact with at any time, are our neighbors. (Matthew 25:14) AND AS WE WILL SEE LATTER, WHEN THE SPIRIT DID DECEND – WE ARE FREE TO REJOICE AND HAVE THE WORDS TO TELL AND THE CHARACTER GIFTS AND ABILITIES FROM THE SPIRITS PRESENCE IN US.

*WE CAN EACH DEVELOP INTO THE INDIVIDUAL PERSON THAT GOD OUR FATHER CREATED US TO BE – THE PERSON THE HE – OUR GOD REJOICES IN.*

v13 and 14. Another hard thing – the Lord saying – the night before His death, that anything we ask because it will glorify the Father – His Father and ours! What would we have the audacity to ask may depend on how we see God and how we see our relationship with HIM.

We may have experience, or know people who have believed absolutely that God would heal some one and they have continued in sickness or died. I cannot answer that but God is real and death is the pathway to Gods more intimate presence.

Do we know that “Jesus became sin for us , He that knew no sin, that we might become the righteousness, rightness of God in Him.” (2 Corinthian’s 5:21) “come to me all you who labour and are heavy burdened and I will give you rest.’ (Matthew 11:26-30).

On a different level “You ask and do not receive because you ask with wrong motives.” (James 5:3)

The scripture is packed solid with God telling us, showing us YET it is summed up in v15
**“if you love Me, keep my commandments” they are the fuel and the guardians for our mind and actions and spirits. “Love the Lord your God with all your hearts and souls and minds – and your neighbor as yourselves.”**  (Matthew 22:37-39)

Walk a mile in their shoes!

I/we are not left alone - especially consider v16, 17, 20.

 V16 The Lord Jesus said “I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may live/abide with you forever.”

Ch 16:14 “he will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you”. Teacher, memory, companion – the One always in our spirits. communicates with The Father for us with such intensity because we do not know how to pray as we should- the Spirit knows the mind of God. (Romans 8:26. 1 Corinthians 2:11-13)

V17 “the Spirit of truth, … you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

V20. “at that day you will know that I AM in My Father, and you in Me, and I AM in you.”

**PENTECOST**

What happened 50 days after our Lords resurrection.

Today we especially focus on the *? excitement*  the wonder, of the Gift of God’s Spirit, God’s Presence coming to live ‘within us’ live permanently in us, MORE THAN that, not a foreign presence, no – the Spirit is a part of our very being! God breathed His Spirit into us on the day we were created. (Genesis 2:7)

ACTS 2:1-21

Gods time – “in the fulness of time God sent forth His Son and now “when the day of Pentecost had fully come” what happened?

1. They were all together, in one place, of one accord , no division, no fear – maybe just wonder and excitement – they did not know when the day that the Lord had promised but they were together – not just the disciples but other believers – men and the women had always been there.
2. Imagine this morning the wind – which we so often hear sometimes gentle sometimes roaring but this morning “a rushing mighty wind” what direct is it coming from ?South north no from above from the meeting point of n s e w. it filled the whole house where they were sitting.
3. Fire appeared – not the fear of a house on fire but “there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one tongue sat on each of them. They were all filled with the “Holy Spirit – the Holy Presence of God.” v4.

I believe that the natural outcome of the Holy Spirits filling is “and they spoke the word of God with boldness” –(Acts 4:29) boldness – the quiet assurance that I am Gods child and the Holy Spirit is prompting me to speak – not compulsion, not pride or arrogance or anything but that I am Gods child and His Presence has given me words and courage and love to speak or to challenge and comfort.

1. It does not say that they were ‘happy’ as we sometimes hear – but they were noisy.

Now I have seen may men and some women drunk, they are usually either angry, sullen, obnoxious and in some settings happy and singing full of good will – which can change in a moment to aggression and abuse, the worst of the loneliness inside escaping out. 9Galations 5:19-21)

It was 9 o’clock in the morning and these people were excited and noisy – they were spilling out with joy and wonder “speaking the wonderful works of God” v11.

Because it was the Passover period there were still people from every country around the known world and each heard these ordinary people speaking the wonder of God – note what excited them – the “wonder of God”, the wonder of Jesus in their own language – heard it from people excited about Jesus – heard it through the Holy Spirit of God.

Now I have, many times, asked God for the gift of speaking other known languages – the answer always – silence – the same with a singing voice. God has given each of us the abilities that He wants for us to have to be the person that He designed us to be – ourselves and to tell others of our faith.

OURSELVES the character of the Lord Jesus is in each of us – read –(Galatians 5:22,23) The ‘fruit of the Spirit’ the same Spirit came on the day of Pentecost – the same Spirit who has never been called back to God is part of us.

We each have our own excitement in walking with Jesus in the Spirit of God – worked as a carpenter, Jesus cooked food, washed peoples dirty smelly feet, cleaned the Temple, - quietly taught people, comforted the grieving, - ordinary things,

spectacular things, raised the dead, walked on water

Yet Jesus was one man in time and place. we are many in many places in the world – millions of us who can be the channel that the Spirit works through, in our ordinary days to bring many to salvation. “greater things”

(Joshua 1:9) “be strong and of good courage: do not be afraid or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

John 14:31 “that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment so I do. **Arise, let us go from here”**.