

# Don't Worry, because Pentecost is Coming

5/22/2020

First Sunday back from Quarantine

## Introduction:

A. The last 2 months have been like never experienced before.

1. We have seen American people at their best.
2. We have seen American people at their worst.
3. We have hoarded toilet paper, saw gas drop to the lowest price in 20 years, and beef prices are skyrocketing.
4. Kids have been out of school for 2 months and a huge question mark hangs over this fall and winter.

B. Yet, God is on the throne.

1. God has perfectly prepared His people and His Church for times such as this.
2. The very Spirit of God lives in each and every one of us.
  - a. We do not live by the spirit of fear, because we have the Spirit of Jesus.
  - b. We do not live by the spirit of poverty, because we have the Spirit of Jesus.
  - c. We do not live by the spirit of deception, because we have the Spirit of Truth.

C. How can I make such bold statements?

1. Because, 2000 years ago, Jesus knew that there would be trouble.

2. Jesus never promised us a life without trouble, but He did promise us power and help through the trouble.

3. This week and next, let me tell you about how Jesus equips us for times of trouble and difficulty.

1. Luke 24 tells of one of Jesus' last conversations with His Disciples.

A. The disciples are broken men.

1. They watched their Savior crucified.

2. Instead of being bold like they had dreamed of being, they fled and hid from the persecution they were sure was coming.

3. These men, who would later die for Jesus' sake, needed help and encouragement.

4. But Jesus knew that.

5. He knew that, on their own, they would falter.

6. So Jesus had a plan.

Luke 24:36–49 (ESV)

### Jesus Appears to His Disciples

<sup>36</sup> As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" <sup>37</sup> **But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit.** (Have we ever seen a day when people were more startled and frightened than today)? <sup>38</sup> And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? (Anybody see any troubled people? Doubting People) <sup>39</sup> See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." <sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup> And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate before them.

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and

the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

B. Sometimes, even believers and followers of Jesus need a pep talk.

1. The Disciples were down and defeated.
2. Jesus saw this.
  - a. He didn’t deny that they were troubled.
  - b. But He did question it.
  - c. “Why are you troubled and Why do doubts arise from your heart?”
3. Could it be that Jesus is questioning our doubt and trouble today?
  - a. Why are you and I so afraid?
  - b. Why are you and I being guided by other spirits than Jesus?
  - c. Faith does not require us to deny reality, but faith requires us to direct our fear in the direction of Jesus.
  - d. The past few months has exposed much about our hearts, and I think Jesus is asking “Why?”

C. Jesus’ Disciples were questioning the events that Jesus and Scriptures had prophesied.

1. Jesus says that the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms ALL declared that the Messiah was to die and to be resurrected on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.

2. The Disciples had lost faith because God's Word had come true.

3. Jesus told us, "In the last days, you will have trouble..."

a. Why are we losing faith because we are experiencing trouble?

b. Why are we doubting God because what God had predicted is coming true?

c. Here is the Good News: If the BAD stuff that God promised is coming true, that means the Good stuff that God promised will come true too.

2. Jesus tells these men that Good Was coming.

A. Sure, Good Friday was a tough day.

1. Yes, Jesus suffered and died.

2. Yes, that was hard to experience,

3. But Jesus came back to life, just as it had been promised.

B. Now, Jesus gives another promise.

1. Jesus promised that repentance and forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed to all nations and all people.

a. Every person you have ever met is eligible for salvation.

b. Every person, of every culture, every skin color, and every language is eligible for repentance and forgiveness.

c. This is part of the Promise.

1. So as you pray the promises of God for you and your family, don't stop at wisdom, or financial provision, or health.

2. Pray that your family will experience forgiveness and repentance.

2. Jesus also promised that, in the midst of all of this, the Holy Spirit would come to them as well.

C. As we look around, and see the troubled state of our world, we can take hope.

1. The presence of trouble means that repentance and forgiveness is here as well.

2. The presence of suffering means that the Holy Spirit has come as well.

3. I do not have to deny reality but I also don't have to lay down and take it.

4. I can walk in power and authority because Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit.

### 3. The Giving of the Holy Spirit is to empower us for times such as this.

A. The days of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Church were hard days.

1. But the Holy Spirit was up to every difficulty.

2. When you receive the Holy Spirit:

a. You receive a connection with God that is unlike any other.

b. You receive an empowerment unlike any other.

c. You receive a boldness unlike any other.

d. You receive wisdom unlike any other.

3. The Spirit within you is more than enough to deal with what is going on around about you!

B. To receive this empowering, all the disciples had to do was wait and receive.

1. They didn't beg, fuss, shout, or run.

2. They waited, prayed, and received what God had promised.

3. You can receive the Holy Spirit today as well.

- a. The promise of empowerment to witness for Jesus is just as applicable as in the days of Peter and John.
- b. We can withstand anything thrown our way as long as the Holy Spirit is within us.

#### 4. Next weekend is Pentecost Sunday.

A. It is a day that celebrates the pouring out of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2.

- 1. On this day, God turned 120 followers into the church.
- 2. On this day, God turned cowards into martyrs.
- 3. On this day, God turned a rabble into an army.
- 4. On this day, God made Old things New.
- 5. On this day, God turned confusion into a strategy.

B. For us, as a church today, we can take heart because Pentecost changes everything.

- 1. When We are confused, Pentecost brings clarity.
- 2. When We are sad, Pentecost brings Joy Unspeakable.
- 3. When We are uncertain of the future, Pentecost brings hope.
- 4. When We are overwhelmed, Pentecost brings power to overcome and overwhelm the enemy.
- 5. When We are angry at the sin, evil, and destruction in our world, Pentecost brings repentance and forgiveness to those who believe.
- 6. We may not know what to believe amongst all the noise, but Pentecost tells us to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

C. All of these feelings, (confusion, sadness, uncertainty, and anger) the Disciples felt after Jesus was crucified and after Jesus ascended to heaven.

1. Jesus' response to the chaos and to the uncertainty was: Wait here until I give you what I have promised.

2. Wait here until I send you myself through the Holy Spirit.

3. **Wait here, because Pentecost is coming.**

D. A couple of weeks ago, I felt overwhelmed by all the news and information and speculation.

1. One news article said we will rebound quickly, another said we are going to experience starvation.

2. One said the bottom of the stock market was hit in March, another said we will see it cut in half.

3. Then I look at local news, and a friend dies of cancer, then a couple that Julie and married several years ago experienced the agony of a stillbirth, and so much more.

a. How do we walk forward with all of this stirring around us?

b. Knowing that Jesus has sent His Spirit to empower us and to give us wisdom in such a time as this is everything we need.

4. The Holy Spirit wasn't sent in the midst of a prosperous time but in a difficult time.

a. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit isn't just for people who have it all together, but to help people like you and I to get it all together.

b. The Peter before Pentecost Sunday and the Peter after Pentecost look like totally different men, but they are the same!!!

c. The difference is the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion: This morning, if you are need of empowerment today, we are going to pray.

A. Right where you are, would you stand with me.

1. Please hear this: The Presence and Power of the holy Spirit is for you and it is for today.

2. So here in a minute, I'm going to ask everyone who will to pray with me and we are simply going to ask "Holy Spirit, fill me".

B. Lord, Fill me and prepare me!