

Pentecost Sunday (May 28/23) “Signs of the Spirit” Acts 2:1-14a, 37-38, 41-47

Our reflection began with an overview of the three pilgrimage feasts of the Jewish faith – Tabernacles, Passover, and Pentecost. We looked at how Jesus fulfilled the feast of Tabernacles and Passover.

1. As we looked at how Jesus fulfilled the feasts of Tabernacles and Passover – what truths stuck out to you about who Jesus is and what he has done for us? How does that impact how you then live?

When the day of Pentecost arrived – or literally when the day of Pentecost was fulfilled. This story will reveal how Jesus fulfills the Feast of Pentecost. Pentecost had two different emphases, one historical and the other agricultural. Historically it came ‘pente’ or 50 days after Passover, when the Israelites came to the base of Mount Sinai, and remembers Moses receiving the law intended to form a people to reflect the character of God.

Read Acts 2:1-14a, 37-38, 41-47 and Exodus 19:1-6; 16-19; 32:1-8; 19-20; 27-29

2. What are the commonalities between these two stories? What does this tell us about how Jesus fulfills Pentecost?
3. Pentecost is first a call to holiness, to repentance, to reflect the character of God. What is it that Jesus can do for us in this regard that stone tablets cannot do?

The second emphasis of the feast of Pentecost is that it was the feast of first fruits. It was the time they began to bring in the grain harvest. It was the first taste of an actual future. The Spirit comes upon us that we would be a foretaste of Jesus’ future.

4. In what ways is this new community formed as a foretaste of Jesus’ future?

The Spirit enabled all who gathered to speak of the great works of God in all the languages of the earth – men, women, and children. The teaching of the scriptures is that everyone who is in Christ is given a gift by the Spirit for the common good. We need all the gifts expressed in our midst so that we might together be formed as a foretaste of Jesus’ future.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, Romans 12:3-8

5. How can we more and more be a community where all of the gifts are given space and expression?
6. Where do you see the signs of the Spirit’s work in our midst?
7. How can we more and more rely upon the work and power of the Spirit to enable us to reflect the character of God and live as a foretaste of Jesus’ future?