

A Mighty Rushing Wind – April 11, 2021

1. Introduction:

a. Pentecost was one of the high Jewish festival days. On the Jewish calendar Pentecost, also called the Festival of Weeks, is celebrated 50 days after Passover. Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning 50th. Pentecost is the second of the three Jewish pilgrimage festivals (Passover, Pentecost, and Booths).

b. In the Jewish tradition Pentecost began as a spring harvest festival celebration focused on the “first fruits” of the “early harvest.” This is the harvest time of the early grains like flax and barley. Although Pentecost began as an ancient grain harvest festival, the holiday has also been identified since biblical times with the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai.

c. Pentecost is a moving Holiday based on the Hebrew lunar calendar. So, the timing of Acts 2:1-4 would have been about 50 days after what we celebrate as Resurrection Sunday.

2. **Read:** Acts 2:1-4 “When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

a. Question: We know that the Holy Spirit was given on Pentecost. Why is it important that “they were all gathered in one place?”

b. Question: The Lutheran Study Bible note for Acts 2:1 explains, “On this new day God’s people are publicly formed through the bestowal of the Holy Spirit. They acquire the names ‘Church’ and ‘Christians’ in the NT but also stand in faith with believers of the OT, who trusted in the coming Savior.” According to this note, how are OT believers saved?

c. Acts 1:13-14 (ESV) provides the likely place mentioned in Acts 2:1, “And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.”

d. Question: According to Acts 1:13-14 who were gathered in the “house?”

e. Question: What does Acts 1:13 say about the living circumstances of those gathered in the upper room?

f. Question: According to Acts 1:14 to what were the people gathered in the upper room devoted?

g. Question: What is surprising about the fact that the brothers of Jesus are mentioned as being part of those gathered?

h. Mark 3:20-21 tells us that after Jesus appointed the twelve, “Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹ And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, ‘He is out of his mind.’”

i. Question: What do you suppose caused Jesus’ family to think Him out of His mind?

j. The People’s Bible Commentary for the Book of Acts says, “That Sunday came as it came every year, but God had special events in mind for this Pentecost in a 30 A.D. What Jesus had promised concerning the Holy Spirit would now take place.”

3. **Read:** Jesus said in John 16:7-15 (ESV), “I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for **if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you.** But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, **he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:** ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ **When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth,** for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

a. In our text today we read about the coming of the Holy Spirit. John 16:7-15 (above) provides us with “why” Jesus sent the Holy Spirit.

b. Question: According to John 16:7 what had to happen before the Holy Spirit would come?

c. Question: According to John 16:7 what would the Holy Spirit do when He comes?

d. Question: What does it mean to be convicted of sin, righteousness and Judgment?

e. Question: According to verse 16:13 what else will the Holy Spirit do?

f. Question: In what practical way do we see the evidence for the assertion made in 16:13?