

Pentecost - The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Sermon Road Map
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John 16:5-11
May 31, 2020

Live in awe of the critical benefit of Pentecost.

- We thought we knew what *critical care* was - then COVID-19
- Ventilators - critical for the care of sickest. PPE critical for caregivers
 - ♦ Many haven't survived, but for those who survived - it was critical.
- To the distraught 11, Jesus offers this critical comfort: ***I am telling you the truth: It is good for you that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.***
 - ♦ What could be better than having Jesus with you? Having the Counselor - the Holy Spirit. He's critical for our Christian life and calling.

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- ❖ ***It is good for you that I go away.***
 - Our word "good" seems weak.
 - ♦ Greek: *appropriate for achieving a particular end*
 - *profitable - expedient - for our benefit.* Of critical benefit for God's goal.
 - Pentecost: not just a day in history. A critical gift for the rest of history.
- ❖ ⁸ ***When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, about righteousness, and about judgment...***
 - It seems straight forward until Jesus continues. How do the *causes* fit?
 - ♦ *opinio legis* sees the Law in *sin, righteousness, and judgment*
 - NIV11: ⁸ ***...he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin...***
 - But the critical life-giving work of the Spirit is gospel, not law.
 - ***convict*** - sounds like *condemn, punish.* ex. Those *convicted* are *convicts.*
 - ♦ Greek: *bring to light, expose, reprove, correct - convince.* RSV & Phillips
 - ♦ The Spirit is critical to ***convince*** people of 3 realities = *conviction*
 - ♦ Without the Spirit the witness of Christians - seed on sun-baked soil.
- ❖ ***he will convince the world about ...sin, because they do not believe in me;***
 - What does not believing in Jesus have to do with sin? **Everything!**
 - *The 1 sin that sends people to hell is unbelief - not believing in Jesus.*
 - Why? *believe = trust, rely on Jesus as my God, God-sent Christ.*
 - ⁴⁴ *Jesus called out, "the one who believes in me does not believe in me only, but in him who sent me..."* ⁴⁸ *The one who rejects me and does not receive my words does have a judge. The word which I spoke is what will judge him on the Last Day,* ⁴⁹ *because I have not spoken on my own,* ⁵⁰ *...the things I speak are exactly what the Father told me to speak."* John 12
 - Failure to fully embrace and trust Christ, the Savior God sent - failure to embrace his word = sin - rejecting God's claim on you, to be your God.
 - Every sin is a sin against: *You shall have no other gods.*
 - Nice people doing moral things, *because it makes them feel good,* are sinning. The glory goes to them, not God.
 - ♦ They consider God, his word, and his honor/glory to be irrelevant.

- Can't you hear the howls? *That's not fair!* From others and from within.
 - ◆ We want rules we *think* we can keep. **God wants** us, saying, *My God!*
- *Lord have mercy on me, an arrogant rebel. You alone are my Lord.*
 - ◆ As believers, we call our lack of trust in his word for what it is: **Sin!**
- ❖ **he will *convince* the world about ...*righteousness*, because *I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me***
 - *opinio legis* sees *righteousness of the Law*. Opposite of sin - to do right
 - ◆ But that has nothing to do with **because *I am going to the Father...***
 - *Righteousness* and *salvation* are synonyms.
 - ◆ *My mouth will tell about your righteousness, about your salvation all day long, although I do not know how to tell all about it.* Psalms 71:15
 - ◆ God's righteous acts = his saving works. *The right* (necessary) *things God did to make us right in a right* (just) way.
 - ◆ Jesus' resurrection declared all sin paid for - all are reconciled to God.
 - *Jesus' return to the Father* = God's work. God's approval.
 - ◆ With this fact, the Spirit convinces the world, Jesus is the Savior.
 - Convinced, faith confesses and possesses Christ's righteousness.
 - ◆ Convinced: removes our doubts. *It's too simple. Am I really...?*
- ❖ **he will *convince* the world about ...*judgment*, because *the ruler of this world has been condemned*.**
 - Those with tender consciences live with fear of judgment.
 - ◆ Fear of judgment in life & death is common to most religious devotees
 - ◆ Why is the Spirit critical to *convince the world about judgment*?
 - Note: Not our judgment, but that of *the ruler of this world* - Satan.
 - ◆ Look around? Who seems to be winning? Who appears to be losing?
 - ◆ Satan's reign and influence seem strong, even out of control.
 - ◆ People even trust Satan for the *good things*. Calling God the oppressor.
 - Only the Spirit *convinces* people of the reality: **Satan has lost.**
 - ◆ Satan got the shock of his existence: Victorious Christ's descent into hell
 - ◆ Shocked on Pentecost: 3,000 convinced. Jesus won. Satan: none.
 - ◆ Satan stirred up persecution. The Gospel spread fast, far and wide.
 - ◆ In Ephesus: those practicing magic arts burned their books. Acts 19:19
 - Fools choose to be on the side of the eternally condemned loser.

Synagogue leaders were jealous that the Apostles could *convince* so many to see their sin, God's righteous salvation, and recognize Jesus as the eternal winner.

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