

Pentecost Sunday May 22, 2021

Sunday morning fellowship

Pentecost is often called the “birthday of the Church”. It is when we celebrate the outpouring of the gift of holy spirit.

The price of redemption had been paid. The work of reconciliation had been completed. The chasm that existed between God and the natural man of body and soul had been bridged. With the gift of holy spirit, men and women were endued with power from on high.

In reading through Acts and the Church Epistles, it is clear that with the gift of holy spirit, God did not intend that we should continue to live the way we had been living.

John 14:12

Had it been anyone other than Jesus Christ saying this we would not believe it. If we are going to do the works he did, we must go into God’s Word to see what they were and find the keys so that we can carry these works out in our lives.

Matthew 3:13 – 17

It was when he was baptized that Jesus received spirit. He then went into the wilderness for 40 days and nights (Matthew 4:1-11).

Matthew 4:12 – 16

Upon hearing that John had been imprisoned, Jesus went into Galilee. We are not told here what happened in Nazareth, just that he left. We are not told what happened in Capernaum, but we do see the results. Now we want to read another of the Gospels to get additional information about the events in both Nazareth and Capernaum. And remember, we are looking at the works that he did and what we can learn about them so that we can do the works that he did.

Luke 4:14 – 19

A point needs to be made here though we will not explore all of the details this morning. Jesus did not read some random scripture; he found the specific thing he was looking for. Then he stopped reading at exactly the right spot in the text. (And there were no chapters and verse markings yet). Later in this passage we will see that he accurately refers to and applies two different records from the OT to the situation he was dealing with. All of this shows us that we cannot overstate Jesus' knowledge of, his understanding of, his belief in and his reliance on the written Word of God. This is a basic point to be made in our study here. He relied on the written Word of God.

Luke 4:20,21

This scripture had not been fulfilled when he was growing up in Nazareth. But this is the first time he has been there since he was baptized and received holy spirit. To see that is one reason we read the passage from Matthew. Jesus knew this scripture in Isaiah referred to him. He found his identity in the Word of God.

I John 3:1,2a

Philippians 2:13

Colossians 2:10

Romans 8:37

II Corinthians 5:20

All these scriptures are just as true about you as that scripture in Isaiah was true about Jesus.

Luke 4:22

We won't look them up, but to see other scripture references to the attitude of the people of Nazareth about Jesus, you can read Matthew 13:54 – 58; John 6:42; Mark 6:1 – 6.

Luke 4:23 – 30

Now Jesus has a decision to make. The Word of God said one thing about him and the people that have known him almost his whole life say another. It is the same type of decisions that we are confronted with. We read what The Word says about us. But our co-workers, family members, neighbors, others think something completely different about us. Let's see what Jesus does.

Luke 4:30 – 32

Jesus decides to continue living his life in light of what God's Word says. "he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor". That is exactly what Jesus is carrying out. Now watch what happens:

Luke 4:33 - 36

To have holy spirit is to be endued with power from on high. There are 9 different ways that gift of spirit can be manifested (listed in I Corinthians 12:8 – 10). Perhaps you have heard it said that the revelation manifestations begin where the Word of God ceases. This passage illustrates that. Jesus decided to live his life with the written Word of God. Now he is in a specific situation and needs information specific to that situation. That is when the revelation manifestations will apply. After that, the impartation manifestations may be needed depending on the revelation. But none of it would have happened had Jesus decided the neighbors were correct and went along with what they thought. He cast the unclean devil out – bringing deliverance to the captives.

Luke 4:37 – 41

No wonder the record that we read in Matthew said that great light had sprung up. Let's close with a passage from the Epistles.

Philippians 2:12 – 16

With the written Word of God and the power of the gift of holy spirit, we can shine as lights wherever we are.