

Getting Ready for Sunday

Devotions for May 29 through June 2

Monday: This coming Sunday we'll be celebrating Pentecost, the birthday of the Church. So today please read Acts 2:1-13. Pentecost is one of the three big Jewish holidays. On that date Jews from all over the world would come to Jerusalem. Most all of them spoke Hebrew, but for many of them their first language would be the language where they lived. On that particular Pentecost the Apostles of Jesus who had just recently seen Jesus ascend into heaven were touched by the Holy Spirit and begin to tell everyone the the good news of Jesus and almost all of the people there heard what they were saying in their first language. Everyone had the opportunity to respond to the good news of Jesus Christ, almost all of them had the opportunity to repent of their sins and be forgiven in the name of Jesus. This was the beginning of the church and this Sunday we celebrate that we still have the Holy Spirit with us to tell us the good news of Christ. Amen.

Tuesday: Today we read the rest of the birthday of the church story found in Acts 2:14-21. You might have noticed that yesterday I said that almost all people had the opportunity to respond to the good news of Jesus. I said that because not everyone heard the good news in their own languages. Some just thought the Apostles were drunk and babbling. And so in our passage today Peter takes the opportunity to explain what was going on. He basically says that a new age has begun, a time that we might call "The Church Age". During this time Peter says that there will be a time of spiritual outbreak which will include people of all ages and stations in life speaking on behalf of the Lord, just like what was happening on that day. The result is that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Lord enable us to be open to the power of Your ever present Spirit so that Your good news can be heard through us. Amen.

Wednesday: Today we read from Psalm 104:24-30. This passage mostly speaks about the creative power of God. And we can't talk about the creative power of God without also speaking about His power to create a connection between our Spirit and God's Spirit, giving us eternal life. This passage reminds us that when God "sends forth His Spirit we are created." This is the creation that connects us with God through Jesus, giving us life eternal. Lord, thank You for Your power to create a connection to You as we open ourselves to the power of Your Spirit.

Thursday: Today we read some of the words of Jesus by reading John 7:37-39. Jesus says that from those who believe in Jesus will flow "rivers of living water." What this is referring to is the power of Spirit that flows out from us to give others salvation. So the Spirit that works as God's creative power doesn't just work all by itself. Instead, like it did with the Apostles, it flows out through those who believe and allows others to hear the good news of Christ. Lord, let the water of life flow through us so others will hear Your good news and respond to it. Amen.

Friday: Today we read from I Corinthians 13:3b-13. In this passage we have read that the Spirit is active in us in such a way that it impacts us by giving us ways to serve God. These gifts that we are given are our own unique way of connecting with people so that they might hear the good news of Jesus. So our gifts aren't for our own use. Instead they are given to allow ways to reach out to others. Lord, use us and work through us. And enable us to allow ourselves to be used so that others might come to know Your great love that was shown to us through Jesus Christ. Amen.