

Acts 2:1-21

“Call on the Lord”

May 15, 2016

Let us put ourselves in the shoes of the Disciples. About two months ago, Jesus gave them the Lord’s Supper in the Upper Room and that night He was taken prisoner in the Garden of Gethsemane. The Disciples fled because we did not want to face death. By the end of the next day Jesus was dead and Joseph of Arimathea was burying Jesus in His tomb. Three days later Jesus Christ had risen from the dead. In fact, Jesus Christ appeared to the Disciples and ate with them. Over the next forty days, Jesus taught them and appeared to over five hundred of them at one time. Then Jesus left them and rose into heaven. After Jesus Christ ascension into heaven, two angels came them and told the Disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come to them. The day the Holy Spirit came is called Pentecost.

Luke tells us that the Disciples worshipped every day in the Temple as they waited for the Holy Spirit. In studying our text, we are even told that the Holy Spirit might have come to a room in the Temple which Luke at times referred to as “oikos” which is the Greek word for house. This would explain why so many Jews from the many places in the known world were present to hear the voices of the Disciples speak in their own languages. Our text tells us that the crowds were bewildered and utterly amazed.

The Holy Spirit got their attention. That day 3,000 were converted. However some were in denial that the Holy Spirit was present in those disciples. Those in denial said that they were drunk at nine in the morning. Many in our world are in denial as well. They too deny that Jesus Christ even existed or that He was God. Those in denial at Jesus time had the advantage of seeing and experiencing the miracles, signs and wonders. Yet, they did not believe. We have the stories and some think that they were just stories and not written history. I am doing a video series on Wednesday that shows us that the story of Christ and the Church is history.

So why did the Holy Spirit come so dramatically? First, the Holy Spirit was being sent to remind the Disciples of everything that happened while Jesus was doing ministry. This led to the writing of the Gospels and the Epistles. Second, the Holy Spirit would be their companion as they carried the Gospel hope to the world. All but John, the Gospel writer, would die violently as they did this evangelistic work. Of course their death was not the only trial that they faced. They would be rejected, beaten and thrown out of town again and again by those around them who did not want to hear what they had to say.

Like the Disciples, our God in this day and age does not want to leave us without support. We too face rejection as we carry the Gospel message into our world. The Holy Spirit gives us that support through the Bible. Some reject the

Bible or portions of it and lose that support. The Holy Spirit gives us our brothers and sisters in Christ to support us as we face the rejection of our world. Some reject that support and stand upon their own. In that area of their spiritual walk, they lose their support. The Holy Spirit gives us our church to worship, praise and receive the assurance of our forgiveness and we face the rejection of our world. Some deny that fellowship they lose the support of the Holy Spirit in that area of their spiritual walk. .

As I consider the newest assault by our society by the politically correct advocates, I realize that we need the Holy Spirit more and more. We are told that those who consider themselves females with male bodies should be allowed into girl's bathrooms and showers. Likewise girls who consider themselves males should be allowed in male bathrooms and showers. We are to allow this to happen because it is the most loving thing to do for them. What about the other children and young adults and the affect upon our society?

Adam and Eve were escorted from the Garden of Eden because they realized that they were naked. In Corinthians we are told that there are parts of the body that are unmentionable. Yes there are nude beaches, nudist camps and people in their own homes can go about naked. We hope that their windows are covered. Likewise we don't go to those beaches and camps. For, we should maintain modesty at all times. Our society is losing their modesty. There are consequences.

Understand that one of the biggest reasons that Moslems Jihadist object to us and seek to destroy us is that we are exposing their children to our moral corruption in movies and on television. Likewise understand that our children are giving in to the sexual temptations and are being labeled perverts and sex offenders because they are exploring. The more we dwell upon sex, the harder for some to deny themselves. Likewise the more we let down the barriers to modesty, the greater the opportunity for some to take advantage of others. There has to be a God pleasing balance. I emphasis that we need to find a God pleasing balance that includes denying ourselves and taking up our Cross and following Him. I likewise emphasis that we need to show grace and mercy to all caught up in the sins of our society. We don't persecute someone because of their gender preference, instead we encourage them to reject their feelings and follow the path laid down by our God. We can expect rejection because of our stand. The Holy Spirit will stand by us. Amen.