

Pentecost: Sharing the Spirit

Numbers 11:24-30; Acts 2:1-21

When we were travelling in Europe there were 10 of us,

**Three generations, 7 adults and 3 children; four men,
three women and two boys and a baby.**

It was hard to keep track of everyone and especially hard

When it came time for dinner to figure out

What each person wanted to eat.

Finally, halfway into the trip, we discovered that if we just

ordered a variety of dishes that there was more

than enough to go around. No one went hungry,

No one had to eat what they didn't want to eat

and we had more fun sharing dishes and

trying different dishes in each country.

In a sense that was what happened with the disciples in the

wilderness with Moses and on Pentecost with Jesus' disciples.

When Joshua cried out to Moses "My lord, stop them"

he was concerned that Eldad and Medad were using

more than their quota of the Holy Spirit.

He was worried that there wasn't enough Holy Spirit to go around.

He obviously didn't understand God's Holy Spirit yet.

And he was in good company since we're still trying to figure out

Whether there is enough Holy Spirit to go around.

Is there enough to feed the hungry children in Jefferson City

And feed hungry children in Peru or in Hungary?

Is there enough to feed the children in the park and also enough

To feed hungry adults at the Salvation Army?

Is there enough Holy Spirit to have a lively and inspiration

traditional worship service on Sunday mornings and

a lively and inspirational contemporary worship

in the Sunday Night Live @ Five service?

Is there enough Holy Spirit to have a good & vital youth ministry

And also a dynamic ministry to the aged and shut-ins?

When we start to understand the Holy Spirit we realize that it is

ONLY BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, that we can do any of these things

And by the power of the Holy Spirit we can indeed do

All these things and EVEN MORE!

Remember when Jesus was talking with his disciples in John 14 and he said *"Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these..."*

And he goes on to say: *“The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. (John 14:26)*

In other words, there is more than enough Holy Spirit to go around.

Like Moses said to Joshua:

“Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’S people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Holy Spirit on them.”

Try as we might, we can’t contain the Holy Spirit.

Whenever we try to put it in a box,

whenever we try to ration it out,

whenever we try to save it for a rainy day,

whenever we say,

“The Holy Spirit can only fall upon this people,

This gender, this generation, this nationality,

This race, this certain group of people,

We are trying to limit God and

WE CAN’T LIMIT GOD!

In fact that’s what Pentecost is all about.

Notice the Joel quote: *“I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh”*

And by all God means all- every nation, men AND women, Young AND old, every language, every economic class- slave AND free. Everyone!

When I was in Sweden with my family

we worshipped at the Stockholm Cathedral, Storykan

and it was a moving Pentecostal experience.

The whole service was in Swedish but we understood

What was happening.

The preacher was preaching on Matthew 6:9-13

“The Lord’s Prayer” and when we got to that point

In the service she invited us all to say the prayer

In whatever our native language was-

It was a Pentecostal experience.

And when she offered the invitation for communion

She offered it with the words “Whatever nation you

are from, whatever denomination you are with

you are incited to the Lord’s table.

I did not dream that I would be able to take communion in Sweden.

And yet, by the grace of God, I was invited to the table.

The Holy Spirit broke down the walls of language,

Culture, national original, denomination and I was fed

When the Holy Spirit is working in us amazing things happen to us

And we can do amazing things for others.

Today we receive our confirmation class as confirmed members

In the Body of Christ that stretches around the world.

They are not junior members of the Body of Christ

But fully Spirit filled members.

The scripture says that they will “prophesy and see visions”

Which means that God will use them to shape and mold the church

Not 10 or 15 years from now but right now and right here.

In fact the whole worship service today, with the call to worship,

prayer of confession, hymns, affirmation of faith

were all chosen by our young people.

God is already working through them

And God is working through you and me.

The affirmation they chose reminds us that:

“in a broken and fearful world, the Spirit give us courage..”

My challenge to you- young and old, male and female,

Is to live as Spirit filled people today and always.

No matter what age- dare to dream dreams, see visions and

Be prophetic- it is you calling and there is enough Spirit

To go around.

