

The Community of God series – Week 5

Sunday November 11 2018

RECAP

1. First, Pentecost matters. The pouring out the Holy Spirit matters. Pentecost is not simply an Acts 2 expression of speaking in tongues, or miraculous signs and wonders, or who has spiritual gifts, or how spiritual gifts edify the church. Pentecost is how we live this life as the people of God. Pentecost is how we live out the promise of Abraham with purpose and meaning—to be a blessing to every other people on the face of the earth.

2. Second, we are people of the Spirit. We are people who live according to the Spirit. We no longer live according to our flesh, according to how we feel, according to our sensual desire for this or that. Rather, as people of the Spirit, we live as people who follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost matters. The pouring out of the Holy Spirit matters. It's how we live.

THE PATH OF DISCIPLESHIP

So what does living according to the Spirit look like? What does living and abiding in community look like for people of the Spirit? It should look very much like Jesus! It should look very much like a disciple of Jesus. Pentecost matters. Discipleship matters.

Discipleship is living according to the leading of Spirit. Discipleship is willfully and willingly following Jesus. Discipleship is a relationship: foremost a relationship with Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit, but also a relationship with Christ's body—the church—based on genuine care and obedient faith.

JESUS DISCIPLED THROUGH COMMUNITY

Matthew 4:18-22 “As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come,

follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.”

Jesus gathered disciples. He called willing followers. He ministered to others and alongside others. He was even ministered to by others. Jesus abided with and worked through meaningful human relationships. Again, as Jesus illustrates in and through his own ministry, discipleship is willfully and willingly following the leading of the Spirit for purpose of blessing ever person entrusted to our care.

EARLY CHURCH DISCIPLED THROUGH COMMUNITY

Acts6:1-7 “In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, ‘It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Holy Spirit and faith. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.’ This proposal pleased the whole group.

Jesus gathered disciples. Jesus’ disciples gathered disciples. And those disciples gathered disciples to follow after them... And now here we are! Jesus disciplined through community based on the leading of the Spirit. The early church disciplined through community with Spirit-led intention. We too are disciplined, and in turn call others to follow behind us with the same faith and intention as our Lord.

Discipleship is not a path or program or organized successive workflow. Discipleship is an intentional relationship with Jesus and his church. We are either in love with body of Christ or we are not. We are either following the leading of the Holy Spirit or we are not. There is no in-between. Discipleship matters. Pentecost matters. Our lives have purpose and meaning in Christ.