

LESSONS FROM PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-13

Introduction: The period of waiting as per Jesus' instructions was not idly spent for the some 120 gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem held a ten day prayer meeting, which the world never knew before and has never perhaps known since. Pentecost was the climax of more than three years of preparation, in which the disciples had walked and talked with Jesus and had come to be identified with Him in spirit and in purpose. What took place there illustrates the evangelistic program Jesus wants His Church to have today. There are lessons that can be learned from Pentecost.

1. The Lesson of Every Member Witnessing.

- The first work of the disciples at Pentecost was not preaching but every member witnessing.
 - Both men and women mingled with the curious crowd who had gathered into their own language groups and told the story of Jesus, asking and answering questions.
 - When has a group of men and women in our day and time mingled with a crowd of people who spoke different languages and told them about Jesus?

2. The Lesson of Rich Harvesting.

- In Jesus' last conversation with His disciples He said to them, *"...Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it to you..."* (John 15:16)
- Jesus has called His followers to be winners, not failures.
 - The witness of His disciples had prepared the minds of the multitude for Peter's soul-stirring sermon and Peter did not tell the people to go home and think about what he had said, Peter pressed for their immediate decision and the people were pricked in their hearts and they cried out *"...what shall we do?..."*
- The outcome of this first day's spirit filled witnessing after Pentecost was *"...Then they that gladly received his word were baptized and the same day there were added unto them about 3,000 souls..."* (Acts 2:41)
 - What reason does a Church have for existing if it is not in the business of winning souls?

3. Lessons from Paul's Passion and Practice.

- When Paul was converted, God became to him a real, present spiritual reality. Jesus was not some far off being, but a living Lord who lived within his heart by faith.
- Paul's spiritual sensitiveness is revealed many times.
 - When Paul was converted, he conferred not with flesh and blood, but withdrew to a remote area in Arabia where he spent three years thinking through his experience and the claims of Jesus and in getting himself ready for his life work.
- Why should any Christian doubt Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit's guidance?
 - The Christian is to us all the sense and judgment he/she has in working for Jesus, but if he/she will put all of that at the disposal of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit will illuminate his/her thinking, direct decisions, correct judgment and save a lot of mistakes and failures.

4. Lessons from Paul's Courage and Compassion.

- Paul was no coward for he did mighty things for the Lord, yet he had no pride, no hint of being boastful.
 - *"...God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world..." (Galatians 6:14)*
- Paul, having been "crucified with Jesus," all fear of death left him.
- When Paul fell in love with the Lord Jesus Christ, he fell in love with all those for whom Jesus died.

5. Lessons from Paul's Skill in Winning the Lost.

- Paul described his secret in being a successful soul winner when he said, *"...For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more, and unto the Jews I became a Jew, that I might gain the Jews, to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are without the law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak. I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some..." (1 Corinthians 9:19-22)*
- Paul's skill in winning others summed up:
 - He began with the lost on their own level.
 - He won their confidence.
 - He dealt frankly and honestly with sin.
 - He held up the crucified Jesus Christ as the only Savior.
 - He demanded true repentance and faith as the only conditions of salvation.
 - He pressed earnestly and boldly for immediate decision, confession and baptism.
 - He refused to be discouraged, never giving up no matter how great the difficulties, and rejoicing in every indication of success.
 - He carefully organized and taught those who were converted to the end that they might go out and win others.

CONCLUSION:

1. Pentecost changed things, started things, taught things that Jesus intends for His Church to be doing today.
2. Churches exist for the primary reason of reaching the lost for Jesus Christ.
3. Paul is a wonderful example of carrying out what Pentecost started and what Jesus Christ wants every believer to be doing today.
4. Take a good look at yourself, not somebody else, but yourself, how well are you carrying on what was started at Pentecost? Are you doing anything similar to what Paul did during his years of witnessing for Jesus? Why not?