

Pentecost Sunday Everybody a Prophet

A Christian is an ordinary person in whom something extraordinary has occurred. The Holy Spirit has descended upon each of us, giving us the power to speak the truth in Jesus' name. In Christ we are all prophets.



Acts 2:1-21 (portions removed; NRSV) When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each...

“In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, ... Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Reflections

One of my favorite movies is “A Walk to Remember.” It’s a story about the unexpected relationship between Landon, a popular high school senior headed down a troubled path, and Jamie, the shunned preacher’s daughter who befriends him. As their love develops, Jamie shares a list of goals she has for her life. The previously aimless Landon creatively endeavors to help Jamie fulfill her “bucket” list. At the end of the movie, Landon shares his disappointment that Jamie never saw *her miracle*, to which her father replies “you were her miracle, Landon.” His life had been transformed into one of purpose.

Perhaps the greatest miracles God performs is His transformation of ordinary sinners into passionate and purposeful people of God. This is not to say that they become perfect, but they surely become a new creation, one that leans into the potential God has created within them.

Have you witnessed this kind of miracle?

About 20 years ago I was a bitter and anxious person who blamed others for my limitations. God pursued me gently at first, and then relentlessly. The Holy Spirit convicted me to see myself as I had never honestly recognized before. That was pretty hard to take in. And then He poured His grace into my heart. It was both a painful and peaceful process.

As I began to follow Jesus and submit to God’s ways, there was a dramatic change in me. Others saw it, too. My husband noted how I had been changed in ways he could have only hoped for but had never voiced. Forever transformed and filled with a new source of passion and guidance, now I’m called to the hard work of living out the hope of God’s potential within me.

You are a miracle waiting to happen. God’s promise of transformation in Christ is a truth available to all. Stop waiting around for the blessings of God to start raining down on you!

- Be still. Get quiet and listen to God’s Word.
- Hear the truth about yourself. Who can you trust to tell you?
- Experience the way Jesus surrounds you with love as He reveals the truth you need to hear.
- Turn away from the past and towards Jesus.

Believe and follow Him diligently.

If your heart longs for this journey, let me point out a distinction as you begin — truth from God brings conviction, a sorrowful yet peaceful knowing. It does not bring condemnation and hopelessness. Make sure you enter into this process by listening only to God’s voice and not the *father of lies*, the evil one who would stand in the way of your hope. Test what you hear in your heart and mind against scripture.

I’m not unique. I see many stories of transformation among us at St. John. God wants you to be next.

—Karen Heist

Readings

Sunday, May 31

Acts 2:1-21

Who was changed in this passage? What was the immediate and long term impact?

Monday, June 1

Romans 12:2; Matthew 19:16-26; John 4:1-42

What potential is lost or gained for us in hearing God's truth? The rich young man could not hear and act on Jesus' truth, but the Samaritan women heard the truth of Jesus and many were changed. What transformation is God waiting to do in you? How will you prepare?

Tuesday, June 2

Jeremiah 1:4-17; Romans 12:3

The prophets of the Old Testament were called to give God's truth to His people. What kind of person is fit to be a truth teller on behalf of God? Where are you called to speak God's truth?

Wednesday, June 3

Joel 2:1-2. 12-13

Often prophets announced the wrath of God on his unfaithful people. In what ways did these prophetic announcements demonstrate God's love and compassion?

Thursday, June 4

Matthew 7:2-4; Matthew 18:15-17

When have you needed to share a difficult truth with someone? What is a proper attitude for truth telling?

Friday, June 5

James 3:1-18

Speaking God's truth takes both wisdom and self control. The prophets spoke only when and what the Lord asked of them. What does James teach you about truth telling and truth receiving?

Saturday, June 6

Psalms 139: 23-24

Take some time to reflect on this scripture or another section of Psalm 139.

What truth do you need to hear about yourself? Ask for the Holy Spirit's help to take it in and act on it.

Don't have a Bible? Access these scriptures at biblegateway.com.