

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

June 9, 2019

Life Interrupted

ACTS: The Journey Continues

Acts 2:1-14

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² 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. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say." Acts 2:1-4: 8, 12, 14

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

The festival of Pentecost was one of the seven great festivals of the Old Testament, celebrating the harvest and God's provision. It was during this festival that we find the disciples gathered together when a great wind sweeps in, and with it they begin speaking in tongues of fire of God's great deeds and power. The crowd follows the noise, and each person is able to hear in their own language. The crowd is amazed and perplexed, wondering what it means, when Peter gets up and addresses them.

Certainly Peter did not anticipate that this would be the day he would preach his first sermon. We live our lives with such a huge emphasis on planning, trying to control every aspect of our lives. ***Think about the most significant events in your life. Were they planned? If we believe in a God who is working among us no matter where we go, how can this help us relieve the anxieties we feel over the things we can't control?***

God's reveals his presence in our lives through his **intimacy** and **power**. Consider how He has gradually drawn closer to us throughout time: creation – the fall in the garden – laws established for how to live – speaking to us through the prophets – becoming flesh and dwelling among us – giving us the power of the Holy Spirit to dwell within each of us. ***How does this arc of increasing intimacy reassure you personally that God is desperately seeking a relationship with you? When do you feel closest to God?*** God leads us live lives that will impact the world through the **power** of his spirit within us. ***As God nudged Peter to preach that day, what do you believe God might have ready for you to take on through the power of his spirit? Given that these nudges can change our lives, how does this change your approach to planning for yourself and your family?***

Craig Barnes, president of Princeton Theological Seminary, says that *life is to be received rather than achieved*. ***What does this mean to you? In what ways can you alter your habits so you can spend more time responding to God's voice rather than achieving your plans?***

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit. May we be reassured and encouraged by your word and how you worked through those before us like Peter. Help us to trust and receive all that you have in store for us, and strengthen us to lives more focused on receiving than achieving. Amen.