

Being & Doing Church in the 21st Century

Discovering the Meaning, Mission & Significance of the Early Church

Church Formation (Part I) - Acts 2

Pentecost (vv 1 – 11) - The "birthday" of the Church. Greek for 50th; 50 days after the Resurrection. Happened around the time of the Jewish Festival of Weeks (Ex 23:14-17), the annual Spring thanksgiving for the first grain harvest – *it split the crowd*

- Unity –

v. 1 “all together in one place” – Jerusalem, where Jesus told them to wait for Him

- Holy Spirit – vv 2- 4

v. 2 - “a rushing mighty wind” (KJV) - “violent wind” NIV

v. 3 “cloven tongues” (KJV) – “tongues of fire” NIV

v. 4 Spirit-enabled to speak in other tongues – *heteros glōssa*

✧ see Acts 1:8 – what Jesus tells the disciples as He ascends

- Diversity –

v. 5 – “devout Jews” [actually Jews by birth & Gentile converts – see v. 11] - from every nation *known to humanity at the time* (a combo of **16** locales/nationalities are mentioned in vv 9-11– **ask class to locate on map on reverse side & count** – **this could be a point to stop the video and allow for table talk**)

v. 6 – when the people hear the wind, they come to see what’s happening; “bewildered” (NIV); “confounded” (KJV)... **because each one hears in his own language! (NOT unknown tongues BUT other intelligible tongues)**

v. 7 – everyone is amazed at what the un-learned Galileans are doing (side bar – all God needs is your availability)

✧ The fact that they are speaking in *heteros glōssa* – vv 4, 6, 8, 11

- **Perplexity & Proclamation (vv 12-36)**

- People want to know what God is up to (vv 6, 12-13)

v. 6 – a very diverse crowd gathers as they hear speaking in their own tongue

v. 12 – some of them asked each other “What’s happening? What do this mean?”

v. 13 – others made up their own answer; most likely one they could relate to

- Peter explains by proclaiming the Good News about Jesus

- Joel’s prophecy (vv 16-21) - Joel 2:28-32

- Jesus is the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy (vv 22-24) –

Young: Mary prophecies (Lk 1:46-55), Joseph sees a vision in a dream (Mt 1:20-21),

Old: Simeon prophecies about Jesus (Lk 2:34-35) in the presence of the prophetess Anna

The sun refuses to shine while Jesus is dying on the cross (Matt 27:45)

- Greater Than & Of the Lineage of King David (vv 25-36) v. 36 – *kyrios & Christos!*

- ✧ *kyrios* = the owner; one who has control of the person, the master

- ✧ *Christos* = the Messiah/the Anointed One - the Son of God

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