Dear Disciples
May 14, 2021

Transcript

Hello, Disciples. This week we mark the ascension of our Lord and we prepare to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit next week on Pentecost Sunday.

As I was studying the lectionary text this week, I was struck by the excitement of the disciples. Even as Jesus is preparing to leave them, Jesus reminds them, he points them back to scripture. He reminds them of what the prophets foretold about his ministry and his life. And he reminds them that a gift is coming that he is going to send - a gift, a helper, a comforter, the Gospel of John tells us - someone who will help them to remember all the things that Jesus has taught.

And as Jesus blesses them in the Luke version of the ascension, and disappears before them, they are worshiping and praising God. And the scripture ends by telling us that the disciples are continually found in the temple praising God. They have hope after a season of great disruption.

Church, it has been 14, 15 months since most of us were in lockdown in the pandemic. And as we begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel because of vaccines - thank God for science that is helping us to live more protected lives - I feel like we need a revival, a fresh wind, fresh fire, a reminder of the fact that God has indeed equipped us to emerge from this time, just as he equipped those first disciples, those first believers who lived through the disruption of the crucifixion and the resurrection. They emerged full of hope and praise because they were pointed back to scripture. And they found hope in inhabiting the praise of God.

I hope that as we move forward in this time, as we prepare for celebrating the precious gift of the Holy Spirit, that you, too, will point yourselves back to scripture, that you will continue to build those habits of spiritual practice so that we can do the work that we've been called to do, so that we, too, can be rejoicing in worship, hearing God speak to us, having God provide us with the strength, and the fortitude, the vigor, and the excitement that we will need as we move forward as a new church in a new world.

I'm excited. I need a revival. I'm going to take this opportunity this Pentecost to feel the fire, to let it fall, and recommit myself to doing the work of the kingdom. Won't you join me in recommitting ourselves to emerge as a new church for this new world? May the Holy Spirit give us all that we need. May the Holy Spirit reenergize, refuel, recommit us to doing the work of God's kingdom. Jesus would want it, so let's be followers of Jesus Christ. Let's be the church that we say we are! God bless you, Disciples. Remember that God loves you, and so do I.