

May 15 2016

Scripture Lessons

Psalm 104:24-34

Corinthians 12:4-13

Acts 2:41-47

Sermon *After the Fireworks*

Do you like fireworks? I like them. Fireworks are amazing as they light up the night skies. Workers fill them up with just the right stuff to send the colors and the patterns in just the right way to get the awe-inspiring fireworks. It is something to look forward to on the Fourth of July.

On the Day of Pentecost God sent his own type of fireworks to his disciples and to the people gathered together on that day. Acts 2:1-4 reads-

“When the Day of Pentecost had come they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound of the rush of a violent wind and it filled the entire house that they were in. Divided tongues as of fire appeared among them and all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and they began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability”.

If you were one of those people on that day, how would you feel? If you had been in that excited crowd when all of a sudden you would have heard that big rushing wind; would have seen the fire and heard the disciples speaking in foreign languages. How would you feel? Would you be glad and excited or would you be afraid. I think I would be a little of both. I have always loved languages. I can remember hiking in Glacier Park when I was in high school and being next to a couple speaking German. I found it fascinating and wished I could understand what they were saying.

The fire part would be OK; too, I have always liked playing with fire. But when fire gets out of control it can be serious. But the wind would be scary for me. I really don't like wind. It always seemed to be a precursor to something serious like a bad storm or tornado or hurricane, all of which I have a fear of. In this case though wind in the Scripture represented the Holy Spirit for the people gathered there.

On that day three thousand people became believers and followers of the Jesus. I would say that God's fireworks made a great impression. So what happened after the fireworks were over? What did those three thousand followers of Jesus do? They started the task of what it meant to be a church family. Together they gathered on a day by day basis. They were a group who believed in the power of God's love to overcome evil and to reconcile the world to God and each other.

So how can we relate to that day of God's fireworks and the days that followed when they came together in prayer, fellowship and the breaking of bread? We do the same thing as we try to live the gospel on a day by day basis. They believed in the

power of God's love and we do also. We need to be consistent; it can't be on a hit and miss basis, and sometimes it is down- right- hard work day by day. It can't be just high points like Christmas or Easter; it has to be every day. We need to devote ourselves to prayer, eating together like our potlucks, Holy Communion and to learn together like our Sunday school and Bible Study. Those early Christians shared possessions and so do we as we share with those in need. In other words we are together as a church family to nurture one and care for another. So each day we remember to pray, to read the gospel, and break bread together as they did on that day of Pentecost. So on that day, the wind, the fire, and the coming of the Holy Spirit was God's fireworks. Let the beautiful fireworks on the Fourth of July remind us of God's fireworks to charge, to rejuvenate and inspire each day. Amen