

Spring Series: “Emmaus: Walking with Jesus”

Sermon #4: “Sharing the Word”

Scriptures:

Luke 24:25-27

25 Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. 26 Wasn’t it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into His glory?” 27 Then He interpreted for them the things written about Himself in all the Scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

Acts 2:7-39, various

Text: “We hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!” -Acts 2:11b

Gathering Song: “Battle Hymn of the Republic” - Sanctify

Welcome - Pastor David

Minute of Silence in honor of Memorial Day

Welcome - Introductions, Welcome Center

New web site

Turn off cell phones but like us on Facebook first. Can from our website.

Pentecost - Words and sharing

Greeting

Songs: “Shout to the North” - Sanctify

“Reign in Us”

Pentecost Scripture, Acts 2:1-6

“Consuming Fire”

Worship Prayer - Amanda

Kid’s Invited to Kid’s Church - Pastor David

Prayers to the Holy Spirit - Pastor David

Invitation to individual prayers after worship

Introduction to Offering - Pastor David

Offering: “Freedom Reigns” - Sanctify

Opening Video - For the sermon series “Emmaus: Walking with Jesus”

PP#1: *Image of Jesus and the disciples on the road to Emmaus.*

Jesus was crucified and buried - He earned the forgiveness for sins. On the third day, He was miraculously raised from the dead - He defeated the power of death. Later that day, He appeared to two disciples walking to the village of Emmaus - He walks and talks with us, on our daily journeys of life. Over the next 40 days, He appeared to hundreds - proving He was truly alive, and we can put our faith in Him. On the 40th day, He ascended back to heaven - showing He was indeed God. Ten days later, or 50 days after Passover and Easter, the disciples were huddled in a room—the very same room that the night before Jesus was killed they had shared the Last Supper, and Jesus had washed their feet. They were there, behind locked doors, and scared to go anywhere or say anything.

PP#2: *Image of the first Pentecost, with the tongues of fire on each person.*

But on that day, all of a sudden, the sound of a rushing wind filled the room. Up on the ceiling came a swirling fire, which separated into individual flames, and one came and seemed to rest on the heads of each of them. “They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the [Holy] Spirit enabled them to speak.” (Acts 2:4).

PP#3: Acts 2:7-11

7 They were surprised and amazed, saying, “Look, aren’t all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? 8 How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? ... we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!”

“They were surprised and amazed, saying, ‘Look, aren’t all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? ... we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!’”

Jesus had gone back to heaven, but then He sent the Holy Spirit to His followers. Every person who takes Jesus as his or her personal Lord and Savior is given the gift of the Holy Spirit within them. This is true for me, and you! We have God’s very presence with and in us. We are never alone. God is always with us. That is so amazing.

PP#4: *Image of the first Pentecost, w/crowds of people hearing the disciples with tongues of fire.*

But you notice, even from the very first time the Holy Spirit comes on people, it’s not just to make them feel better, and know God is with them. The Holy Spirit does something, causes something. There is another purpose why Jesus sends the Holy Spirit on His followers.

The people who experienced the Holy Spirit on them started talking. They throw open the doors and head out into the street, where there are people mingling from all over the world. And although each disciple spoke in their own native language, all the other people, all those in the streets passing by, heard them talking, but always in the listener’s native language. What a miracle!

PP#5: Acts 2:12-13

12 They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, “What does this mean?”
13 Others jeered at them, saying, “They’re full of new wine!”

Everyone is surprised and bewildered. What is going on? What does this mean? Well, some skeptics thought perhaps they were drunk, and that’s what caused this.

PP#6: Acts 2:14-16

14 Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, “Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! 15 These people aren’t drunk, as you suspect; after all, it’s only nine o’clock in the morning! 16 Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

Peter is there and sees what’s going on. He realizes the miracle of the Holy Spirit. So he calls out to everyone—and remember everyone can hear in his or her native language—and explains that this is a miracle of God. This is what was promised way back in the Old Testament. The prophets foretold all of this. Now it is coming true.

PP#7: Acts 2:16

16 Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

17 In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young will see visions. Your elders will dream dreams. 18 Even upon my servants, men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ... 21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

You see, God had a plan. In the days of the Messiah, God would give His Spirit to people, and they will speak words of prophesy, words of healing, words of hope, words of life. God wants all people to hear these words. He wants all people to know How much God loves them.

PP#8: Acts 2:22-33

22 “Fellow Israelites, listen to these words! Jesus the Nazarene was a man whose credentials God proved to you through miracles, wonders, and signs, which God performed through Him among you. You yourselves know this. 23 In accordance with God’s established plan and foreknowledge, He was betrayed. You, with the help of wicked men, had Jesus killed by nailing him to a cross. 24 God raised Him up! God freed Him from death’s dreadful grip... This Jesus, God raised up. We are all witnesses to that fact. 33 He was exalted to God’s right side and received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit. He poured out this Spirit, and you are seeing and hearing the results of His having done so. ...

Jesus of Nazareth was from God. By God’s plan, He came to be the Savior. He was betrayed, killed on a cross, but raised again. “We are all witnesses to this,” Peter says. And then God the Father sent to Him the Holy Spirit, and He in turn sent it to these people. This is what is going on.

PP#9: Acts 2:36-39

36 “Therefore, let all Israel know beyond question that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” ...

38 Peter replied, “Change your hearts and lives. Each of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 This promise is for you, your children, and for all who are far away—as many as the Lord our God invites.”

This Jesus is both Lord and Christ. Therefore, the message everyone needs to hear—and indeed everyone did hear in their own language—is that these promises are for you. Change your

hearts and lives. Be baptized and receive His forgiveness for your sins. And you, too, will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

All of this fulfills the past—the Holy Scriptures. Do you understand them correctly? Do you need them explained to you? We'll come back to this.

And all of this fulfills the present - change your hearts and lives. Decide to walk with Jesus!

And all of this fulfills the future - this message is supposed to be shared with everyone. This promise is for you, but also for the next generations, and those far away. This promise is for us, here today.

PP#10: Sharing the Word

1. Those who walk with Jesus are given the Holy Spirit so that they can share with others the message of Jesus

This is why we receive the Holy Spirit. This is your mission, should you choose to accept it. So get talking, get sharing, get speaking! The Holy Spirit will help your listeners to hear it in a way so they can understand and receive it.

PP#11: Emmaus: Walking with Jesus

Sharing the Word

“We hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!” -Acts 2:11b

Walking with Jesus. That's our sermon series. We see in the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus Easter afternoon, who are joined by Jesus, we see in this story our stories, how we are to live as Christians. We are people of the road. And as we journey to our homes, into our daily lives, Jesus comes and walks with us. The Christian life is walking with Jesus. It is sharing the road. It is sharing the meal. And today we see it is sharing the word. Acts 2:11 “We hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages.”

The two disciples walking along the road are discouraged. They had been following Jesus for a while. But now they think He is dead. They saw Him crucified and buried. Their faces are downcast. They thought God was going to do something special with Him. But He was killed.

Sunday afternoon, after discussing silly rumors that His tomb was empty, they decide to head home. Along the way, a stranger comes along side of them, and they begin talking. “Why are you so sad?” He asks.

PP#12: Luke 24:19-21

They said to him, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of His powerful deeds and words, He was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. 20 But our chief priests and our leaders handed Him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified Him. 21 We had hoped He was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago.

They killed Jesus. We had hoped He was to be the Redeemer. But He was crucified.

Jesus joins them when they are discouraged, where they are discouraged. They didn't understand it all. They were encouraged by His miracles and teaching. They hoped He would lead a rebellion and free the nation of Jews from Roman rule and they could be their own nation again.

They get some of it, but not all of it. They understood His victories, but not His sufferings. They saw His death, but not His resurrection. Yet He came to do so much more than a political change. This is part of the reason they can't recognize Him. They can only see part of it all.

PP#13: Luke 24:25-27

25 Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. 26 Wasn't it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into His glory?" 27 Then He interpreted for them the things written about Himself in all the Scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

Jesus responds (Luke 24:25-27): "Then Jesus said to them, 'You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. Wasn't it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into His glory?' Then He interpreted for them the things written about Himself in all the Scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets."

They don't know what was going on. They can't understand. So Jesus goes back into the prophets and the Scriptures, and explains how God's plan had been there all along. It was a plan that included the Messiah suffering and dying before being raised again. He wasn't trying to set up a different government. He was trying to set up eternity!

PP#14: Sharing the Word

1. Those who walk with Jesus are given the Holy Spirit so that they can share with others the message of Jesus
2. People only get part of the story.

People today, in our culture, they get some of it. But they don't get all of it. People think they know God and how to live. They know Jesus as a good person who died for His cause. But there's more to the story. Most people don't see Jesus as raised from the dead. And because of that, most people are downcast. They are stuck. They are returning home bound by all that is ugly in the world, all that goes wrong, fearful all the evil forces at play. All that they see as real is limited to this life. People are so gripped with fear, fear of losing their health, their security, their hopes, their loved ones. All they see is death. Life is so vulnerable, so fragile. Safety! Safety! It's a cry of fear.

PP#15: Sharing the Word

1. Those who walk with Jesus are given the Holy Spirit so that they can share with others the message of Jesus
2. People only get part of the story
3. Jesus helps them to see differently

What does Jesus do? He tells them the rest of the story. He goes back and explains. He points to God's hand at work. He gave them a new way of understanding, of interpreting all that was going on. He reframes what they know from God's perspective. And that changes everything.

Joseph, in the Bible, was sold as a slave by his angry brothers. He ends up in Egypt, and then in prison. Years later, Joseph is in charge of all the grain in Egypt. His family has to come down there during the famine to get food. They are horrified to find Joseph in charge! But Joseph tells them, "Don't worry. 'You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives' (Genesis 50:20). Because of Joseph, there is enough food for everyone.

A friend of mine said that he survived severe cancer treatment. It was miserable. Yet he told me story after story of how God had used him, in the midst of his pain and fear, to bless others.

Jesus gave them a new way of seeing their reality. What seemed like such a defeat, was actually such a victory. They're only seeing part of the story.

PP#16: Sharing the Word

1. Those who walk with Jesus are given the Holy Spirit so that they can share with others the message of Jesus
2. People only get part of the story.
3. Jesus helps them to see differently
4. Speak words of life

Jesus speaks to them, opened to them a different way of seeing things, and their reality changed. He speaks words of prophesy, words of healing, words of hope, words of life. And they are changed. Their hearts burn. They realize it is Jesus. And they come out of their room, where they had eaten with Jesus, they throw open the doors and rush out into the street. And they rush back to Jerusalem to tell words of life.

This story is our story. We have the Holy Spirit, giving us tongues of fire. We are pushed out into the streets, to go and share with others. God gives the Holy Spirit so that what we share can be understood by our listeners.

So, to truly celebrate Pentecost, we need to live it out. The promises are for us, and for those around us. We need to share, we need to pass on words of hope, of promise, words of life.

PP#17: *Images of all the ways we communicate and share words.*

Think about all the ways you communicate with others. What kind of words do you share? You have opportunity after opportunity to share words of life. Think about the people you meet. How can your words build someone else up, help them to see their day, their life, their mess, differently? How can you share with them the bigger picture?

My cousin told me four years ago that her goal each day is to speak words of life into others. Wow! How could we all do that? Imagine, as you get up in the morning. What words could you share with others in the house with you? How refreshing and life-building would it be to not nag about what needs to happen, or what's wrong, or how late or sloppy they are. How could you send them off with words of life?

How about that person who is rude to you on the way to work? How about you smile when they cut you off? Or your coworker? How could you speak words that would help them change how they see things? How can your words be encouraging? Or at the store, with that random person you walk past. Could you offer words of life?

Those closest to you. What language really connects? In counseling we talk about people's different love languages. I don't buy my wife flowers any more. It took me a couple of years to realize they didn't do much for her. I had to find out what her love language was, and use that. How about those close to you? What are their languages? How can you communicate with them in a way that will actually get across your desire for kindness and blessing. They need to hear in their own language!

How about your emails? Do they have to be just so business all the time? How about making a point to add just one sentence that complements or builds them up, or encourages them?

Why is it that we think we can post on Facebook words about someone that we would never say if they were present? When did that become acceptable? How about if you made a point to only write down what your mother would like for you to say?

What can you say in 144 characters that will change someone else's way of seeing something. I think you would be surprised what good you can do!

How about you take a moment to write a comment on the Caring Bridge site. Jim Roe mentioned this past week that he started to go back through and read the comments posted two years ago when his first wife died. They are giving him such life, this second read through!

Or how about the graduation cards you're writing. What if you took just a couple of minutes to write specifically why you are so proud of that person on the left inside of the card? Words of life!

PP#18: *Images of LifeSavers Mints, subtitled, "Speaking refreshing words of life!"*

I'm going to ask the ushers to pass around baskets of mints. I want each person to take a mint, and save it for later. Put it in your pocket or purse. Everyone gets one. [Mints handed out.]

I often use mints to make sure that my breath is refreshing when I am talking with others. I want my words to be well received. I want them to come across with a refreshing affect.

Sometime this week, I want you to take your mint and use it, sometime when you have ample opportunity to communicate with others. And as you do, I want you to try to have your words be as refreshing as the mint makes your breath. I want you to commit to share words of life. You will notice that the mints are Life Savers! I couldn't resist! I paid extra for those. It was just too good!

Pentecost is about the Holy Spirit coming into us, and sending us out, sharing words of life. Jesus did that with the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Jesus calls us to continue to do that wherever we go. We are people of the road. And wherever we go, people only get part of the story. God's plans are so much more. We are called to share more of the story, to help people see what God is doing in their lives and in our world. We are called to speak words of life. Let's start talking!

Amen.

Closing Song: "Words" - Sanctify

Announcement & Benediction - David

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR MAY 24, 2015

Spring Series: “Emmaus: Walking with Jesus”

Sermon #3: “Sharing the Word”

Scriptures: Luke 24:25-27

Opening prayer

Introductions:

Introduce yourself and share something that you lived through, that, although it didn’t seem very pleasant at the time, you later were able to see how God used that to bring blessing in surprising ways.

Context: Read Luke 24:13-24 to understand the context of the story.

Highlight the main movements and address any questions or clarifications.

Read Luke 24:25-27 in two different versions.

1. Why might Jesus have called them foolish?
2. Why, do you think, their minds were dull? What messages of the prophets were they missing?
3. Why was it necessary for the Christ (Christ means “Savior” or “Messiah”) to suffer many things?
4. Why did His suffering come before His glory? (Look to Philippians 2:5-11 for a clue.)
5. What kinds of things do you think Jesus pulled from the Old Testament when He taught them? What from the Old Testament would you point to if you were trying to explain why Jesus had to die on the cross?
6. Reflect and share a bit about how God often lets us suffer hard things and then uses them for good. Why is this so effective?
7. Application: What will you take away from this passage? How will you live it out?