



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR ALL SAINTS SMALL GROUPS

"The Power to Go Public" | Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt | May 23, 2021 | Pentecost Sunday

Luke 4:16-30

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and he went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the sabbath day. And he stood up to read; **17** and there was given to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written,

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
19 to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

20 And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. **21** And he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." **22** And all spoke well of him, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth; and they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" **23** And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself; what we have heard you did at Caper'na-um, do here also in your own country.'" **24** And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his own country. **25** But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Eli'jah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when there came a great famine over all the land; **26** and Eli'jah was sent to none of them but only to Zar'ephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. **27** And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Eli'sha; and none of them was cleansed, but only Na'aman the Syrian." **28** When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. **29** And they rose up and put him out of the city, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw him down headlong. **30** But passing through the midst of them he went away.

Key Points and Discussion Questions from Tim's Sermon:

Introductory Discussion

When you think of the term *Pentecostal*, what images and experiences come to mind?

Where did the term *Pentecost* actually originate? What was its significance in the time when the events in these stories actually occurred?

- 1. Tim referred to the period between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost as an "in between" time.**
 - o How long was this period?
 - o What were the disciples doing during this period? (see Acts 1:14)
 - o What do you think they were feeling?
- 2. Tim noted the tremendous call given to the disciples by Jesus before he ascended (see Acts 1:8-9).**
 - o How do you think the disciples felt about this calling?
 - o What did Tim point out is distinct about this calling, and any calling Jesus gives his disciples (including us)?
 - o Identify at least one of God's obvious callings upon your life right now. Consider your approach to fulfilling this calling. In what sense are you seeking to fulfill this calling in your own strength? How is that working for you?
 - o If you are married, consider the question Tim raised: how might the loss of health or wealth affect your willingness to fulfill your wedding vows? What was the relevance of this portion of Tim's sermon to Pentecost?
 - o What would it look like for you to re-approach your calling(s) with the conviction that your own strength will never be enough? What would you do or say differently?
- 3. Tim discussed how the Holy Spirit is a Person (a *who* not an *it*) whose purpose includes revealing Jesus in our everyday lives.**
 - o What two images from nature does Luke use to describe the presence of the Holy Spirit when it arrives at Pentecost? (see Acts 2:2-3)
 - o What does it look like in Scripture when Jesus shows up in the flesh? Is it peaceful or disruptive?
 - o Tim suggested that it is always disruptive. How does this strike you?
 - o What do these passages reveal about what we can expect when Jesus goes public? What is the same about when Jesus goes public on his own (Luke 4) and. when He goes public through his disciples (Acts 2)? What is different?
- 4. Tim states, "you cannot hide in a self-focused privatized spirituality if you are a Christian." Agree? Disagree? Discuss.**

Acts 2:1-15, 41

2:1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. **5** Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. **6** And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. **7** And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? **8** And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ..." **12** And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" **13** But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine." **14** But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. **15** For these people are not drunk, as you suppose... **41** So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Closing Consideration:

Name one unbeliever in your life who probably doesn't know you are a Christian. Discuss that person and your relationship with that person. As you close the discussion, take a moment to pray for each of those relationships and people by name.

Notes from the perspective of Mike Burton