

Bill & Kipp's Excellent Bible Adventure

John - Episode 4 - The Holy Spirit (and Amelia Bedellia)

- I. Read the description of the coming of the Holy Spirit as described by Luke in Acts 2 and by John in John 14.

Acts 2:1 - When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

John 14:15 - "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

- A. How are they similar? How are they different?
- B. How have you experienced the Spirit in your life?
- C. What moments in life have you experienced God as "Comforter" and "Counselor?"
- D. When in life have you had a sense that the Spirit was giving you boldness and courage?

- II. Skimming the stories below, how does John "Amelia Bedellia" the characters and "wink" at the readers in each of the stories?

- A. Nicodemus (Ch. 3)
- B. Woman at the Well (Ch. 4)
- C. Healing at the Pool (Ch. 5)
- D. Man Born Blind (Ch. 9)
- E. Mary, Martha, and Disciples in Death of Lazarus (Ch. 11)
- F. Pilate (Ch. 18: 36-38)

- III. John seems to indicate that the coming of the Spirit, the Paraklete or "Comforter," opens ones eyes to what God is doing in the world.

- A. Have you ever "had your eyes opened" and realized that God had been working in your life, and you had not realized it?
- B. How does this help explain how persons of faith view the world from a different perspective that persons who have not sought to faith in God?
- C. What are the advantages and dangers of followers of Jesus being "insiders - in church history and in living out faith today?

- IV. Read 2 John 7-9 - “Many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh; any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist! 8 Be on your guard, so that you do not lose what we have worked for, but may receive a full reward. 9 Everyone who does not abide in the teaching of Christ, but goes beyond it, does not have God; whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.”
- A. How does one “go beyond” the teachings of Christ?
 - B. Have you ever experienced someone whom seems to assume they had a “secret” knowledge of God that was “more special” than what God gives just ordinary followers of Christ? What groups in in the United States religious history have assumed special knowledge?
 - C. Why do you think John said in Revelation 1:3, “Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of prophecy...?”