

Why Settle for a Mouthful of Coffee Grounds?

May 20, 2018

Wonderful Mercy

Acts 2:1-21 and Pentecost

- **Acts 1:1** NIV
“In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach”
- His former book is the gospel of Luke and the implication is that *this* book, Acts, is about the work Jesus is continuing to do, only now through his Church as it is empowered by Holy Spirit

Context for Pentecost

- The discouragement of disappointment with God—specifically, that the risen Jesus was not going to immediately restore the kingdom to Israel (1:6)
- The Rigor of Realignment—realigning their hopes and expectations with reality
- Conditions were suboptimal for a remarkable move of God in their midst

So How Does It Happen?

- Unity: “they were all together in one place”
- **Matthew 18:20** AMP
“For where two or three are gathered in My name [meeting together as My followers], I am there among them.”
- The fundamental power of unity is that it invokes and invites the presence of God

So How Does It Happen?

- They don't do anything to make it happen
- Acts 2:2 says “they were sitting” when the Holy Spirit fell upon them
- No self-respecting Jew would pray sitting down
- Pentecost isn't the result of ultra-spiritual people doing ultra-spiritual things

So How Does It Happen?

- They don't possess special knowledge that makes an outpouring from heaven more likely
- **Acts 1:8** NIV
“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

It Was Baffling to Onlookers

- **Acts 1:12** NIV
“Amazed* and perplexed,** they asked one another, ‘What does this mean?’”
- *exístēmi: to be transported beyond oneself with astonishment [*Complete Word Study Dictionary*]
- **diaporeō: to be wholly at a loss [*Word Pictures in the New Testament*]







BBC NEWS



Being Filled with the Spirit

- While we don't look to replicate a second Pentecost any more than we would attempt to enact a second Calvary, we do look for (and must have) ongoing fillings with or by Holy Spirit
- Ephesians 5:18b “Be filled with the Spirit”
- “The command in Greek is a present imperative and does not describe a onetime ‘filling’ but a regular pattern of life.” [ESV Study Bible]

1,000 Cups of Tea

- “What makes for a good cup? Is it using carefully selected tea leaves? Or freshly ground coffee beans? These may give a distinct flavor, but the true game-changer is the water. Fresh, cool, delicious, good-for-everyone, thirst-quenching water. Let’s face it, not many of us enjoy a mouthful of tea leaves or coffee grounds. It’s the water that makes a cup of tea drinkable and something we want to share together.” [Sally Latsko, May 13, 2018]

John 7:37-39 PASSION TRANSLATION

Then on the most important day of the feast, the last day, Jesus stood and shouted out to the crowds—“All you thirsty ones, come to me! Come to me and drink! ³⁸ Believe in me so that rivers of living water will burst out from within you, flowing from your innermost being, just like the Scripture says!” ³⁹ Jesus was prophesying about the Holy Spirit that believers were being prepared to receive. But the Holy Spirit had not yet been poured out upon them, because Jesus had not yet been unveiled in his full splendor.

Draw from a Very Deep Well

- “What you folks have done here is, you’ve dug a very deep well. God supplies the groundwater of his Holy Spirit, the living water, but he doesn’t dig wells.”
[Dave Housholder, February 4, 2018]
- We live in the desert. Water is life. Don’t settle for a mouthful of coffee grounds.

A Personal Pentecost Prayer

“Father, I give my
life to you.
Whatever you ask
of me, I accept.
And if it means
suffering, I accept
that too. Just
teach me to follow
Jesus and to love
as He loves”

[Patti Gallagher Mansfield, 1967 Catholic
Charismatic Revival]



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