

What emotions do you think they were feeling? What do you imagine them saying to one another? How receptive were they to the gift they were about to receive? Meditate on those questions and then ask yourself one more question: How receptive are you to the promised gift of the Holy Spirit and the power that accompanies that gift? Record your thoughts here.

### **Thursday, June 4**

Read once again Acts 2:1-21. The message mentioned the word “community” a lot. The fact is the reception of the Holy Spirit that first Pentecost was a gift of community to a community. It was a gift of remembering the teaching of Jesus that formed those first disciples into a community in the first place. It was a community based on inclusiveness. It was a gift of power.

Read Acts 2:1-21 again if you have the time. Carefully, consider the flow of power as the events of that first Pentecost unfolded. Follow the effects of power on those who were gathered in Jerusalem “from every nation.” Can you see that gift of power flowing through the centuries to you? To the church? To our church? Write your thoughts and ideas here.

### **Friday, June 5**

Read both Acts 2:1-21 and Romans 12:1-10. The true power of Pentecost is the power of community and the inclusive nature of the community based on Jesus’ teachings. Meditate on the word “inclusive” for a moment. What does it mean to be inclusive? How do you imagining the church being inclusive? What sacrifices does the church have to make in order to be inclusive? Meditate on these questions and write your thoughts here. Pray for God’s wisdom so that the church – our church – can truly be the church Christ intends.

## **Message Notes – May 31, 2020**

### ***The Right Preference\****

- I. Unless we have \_\_\_\_\_, we can do nothing.
  - A. That was certainly true for the disciples of Jesus; Jesus told them that first they were to wait for the gift of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ they will receive.
  - B. Clearly there was a great demonstration of \_\_\_\_\_ that transformed the disciples that first Pentecost of the Church.
  - C. This is important because as soon as the promise of power to the disciples was fulfilled, they were able to \_\_\_\_\_ with people from all over the known world.
    1. The promised power was received and immediately the results of that power were passed on to \_\_\_\_\_ – all \_\_\_\_\_.
    2. And what did they hear? About God’s \_\_\_\_\_ of power!
- II. This is the third in a series of four messages about building bridges into our community through our \_\_\_\_\_ experiences.
  - A. I want to define the word “\_\_\_\_\_” using the words “first choice.”
    1. The word “first” meaning whatever we or others prefer is a \_\_\_\_\_.
    2. The word “choice” because we have the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ to choose.
  - B. Let’s think about the flow of that power and the \_\_\_\_\_ of those first followers of Jesus the Christ.
    1. Until the event of \_\_\_\_\_ the disciples were incapable of carrying out Christ’s

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\*Acts 1:1-21 and Romans 12:1-10

mission.

2. At Pentecost the \_\_\_\_\_, rather than \_\_\_\_\_ nature of Christian community was clearly demonstrated.
3. Following the powerful display of the gift of the Holy Spirit that the disciples received, that power is immediately \_\_\_\_\_ to others.
4. The preference of those whom the disciples were trying to reach was matched by the movement of the \_\_\_\_\_.

- III. The true gift of Pentecost is the \_\_\_\_\_ of transformed lives.
  - A. The gift of the Holy Spirit was a gift to the \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus had formed.
  - B. From the time of that first Pentecost, the church's story is one of trying to honor Christ's and the Holy Spirit's continual work of being \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_ is not compatible with Biblical Christianity.
- IV. The gift of Pentecost and the Holy Spirit is the gift of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. And we are a community of \_\_\_\_\_!
  - B. It's a power that is based on the \_\_\_\_\_ that was the foundation for the teachings of Jesus and continued in the community formed by Jesus.

## ***Daily Meditations and Study Guide***

The following is a daily meditation and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

### **Monday, June 1**

The message yesterday began with Pastor Jack sharing a humorous (and true) story of his water softener not being plugged in. The point of that story is unless we have power, we can do

nothing. Meditate on that phrase for a moment: "Unless we have power, we can do nothing." What do you think of when you think of the word power? What images come to mind? How do you view yourself when considering the power you possess? Meditate on these questions and write your thoughts here.

### **Tuesday, June 2**

Read Romans 12:1-10. This is a passage of scripture that mentions how we grow in faith through the transforming of our minds. It also asks that we not think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think (verse 3). In the message, you were asked to think about the word preference as defined as "first choice." The word "first" meaning whatever we or others prefer is a priority. The word "choice" means we have the blessing and the power to choose.

An important part of the message was choosing the preference of others over our own preferences. When we are trying to reach other with the love and grace of God founded in Jesus the Christ, we must consider the preferences of others over our own. We're not to lord our power over others but rather seek to serve others. (Mark 10:42-44) Think about considering the preferences of others over your own so that you might effectively share your faith with them. Write your thoughts here.

### **Wednesday, June 3**

Read Acts 2:1-21. Today as you've read these verses from Acts, chapter 2, consider the condition of the disciples as they waited for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit and the power that accompanies that gift. It was a period of waiting. What images do you have of those whom Christ chose to continue his mission and ministry?