

Westfield Sermon notes

Title: Pentecost

Readings: Numbers 11:24-30 & Acts 2:1-21

Preacher: John Longbottom

Date: 4th June 2017

This sermon can be found at: <http://www.westfieldurc.org/worship/sermons>

A note from last week: For all you who were confused and to make it clear (and I think I got it the wrong way around) with last week's sermon notes. The Northern kingdom (Israel) was taken into captivity by the Assyrians and the southern kingdom (Judah) was taken into captivity by the Babylonians.

Sermon Notes / Comments:

- Until a sailing ship sails are filled with the power of the wind there is not movement. It isn't going anywhere. However, if the sails weren't open and the crew not ready the mighty wind would have been wasted.
- The Holy spirit is often compared to a rushing wind, but without its power we can do nothing and The Holy Spirit can only help us if we are ready!
- As we travel up and down the country we see many wind farms; the power of the wind have been moving over the hills for many years but it is not until technology was available that this wind could be harnessed in any major way.
- Jesus says "the wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." John 3:8
- Wind is one of those metaphors that the bible uses to describe the effects of the Holy Spirit. When Luke wrote this passage perhaps he was thinking of the dry bones in Ezekiel (chapter 37).
- The same word in the Bible in both Hebrew and Greek is used and can mean both wind or Spirit and the Greek word for wind/spirit, pneuma (πνεῦμα) is the same word that we get the word pneumatic drill, but the Spirit is also symbolised by tongues and the dove. They are all attempts to describe the indescribable and explain the inexplicable.
- The advantage of a symbol is that you need to use your own imagination and is different things to different people and is therefore much more powerful!
- Without the aid of the Holy Spirit we are powerless!
- How often do we feel powerless to do what we should do?

- When it comes to the point that you lack the strength, what do you do – PRAY. Without the power of the Holy Spirit you can't bear any of the fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control) Gal 5:22f
- If anything is happening in your life or you want anything to happen in your life; pray and then pray again. We will then harness the power of the Spirit to change our character / life. We will then be more effective as a human being. Without the Holy Spirit's power, you will achieve nothing.
- The Spirit comes like the wind, how many of us have experienced that moment in our lives when the Holy spirit came and touched them. How many have received these gifts? How many of us can honestly say the Holy spirit has changed their lives?
- The Holy Spirit is moving today. He is moving here today, he is moving in our country – although sometimes you would wonder where is the Holy Spirit. We pray for those that have been effected by recent events. But we ask what is the Holy Spirit.
- There are many examples of people helping someone others in distress – The Holy Spirit is moving in our nation today. Have you prayed that the Holy Spirit helps in the selection of the next government?
- The Holy spirit is with you. He follows you wherever you go.
- My best prayers are when I am washing up the dishes!!
- The Holy Spirit helps you to pray anywhere.
- Holy Spirit also helps you know that today is the day to be alive!

Questions / thoughts and areas for discussion

- As always please read through the passages above.
- Can you imagine the mighty wind of the Holy Spirit? Can you imagine the Holy Spirit giving you power?
- When we feel powerless what do we do?
- Have you ever tried to pray when you are tempted, tempted to eat too much, or drink too much or to be rude etc?
- Which of the fruits of the Spirit would you like to develop? Read Gal 5. Have you prayed for it / them?
- Have you felt the Holy Spirit filling you? Why not tell someone about it this week?
- How do you think the Holy Spirit help you personally/ Why not thank him?

Please note these are Mark's thoughts etc on the sermon and may not be the Preacher's!