

Notes for Next Sunday

Pentecost Sunday

The Point of this Week's Readings

Old Testament (Numbers 11:24-30). Moses had been overwhelmed by his huge load of spiritual ministry. His father-in-law, Jethro, had watched this and told Moses that if he continue carrying such a workload he would perish. Jethro advised Moses to lower his workload by delegating some of his responsibilities to men of spiritual strength. That brings us to this lesson where Moses selects 70 men of good reputation to a tent outside of the camp to receive the Holy Spirit. When they received the Spirit, they prophesied including two who had not gone out to the tent. After this initial prophesying, they did not do so again because their credentials had been established. These 70 now took some of Moses' spiritual responsibilities.

New Testament (Acts 2:1-21). The first thirteen verses deal with the Spirit coming down on the apostles and other disciples who had been staying in one place waiting as they had been told to do by Jesus. It was the day of Pentecost and was the 50th day after the Sabbath of Passover week. Wind and fire were a part of the physical indication of the Spirit's presence. The amazing result was that people who had come from many regions of the then known world to celebrate could now hear the message of salvation in their own language. Of course there always seem to be detractors and that was so here when some suggested the disciples were drunk. In verses 14-21 Peter debunks the drunkenness accusation by pointing out that it was only 9:00 A.M. (On a festival day such as Pentecost, the Jew would not break his fast until at least 10:00 A.M.). He then goes on quoting how all this had been prophesied by the Prophet Joel.

Gospel (John 7:37-39). The setting is one last day of Feast of Tabernacles. This festival was also called the Feast of Booths because the Israelites lived in temporary shelters when God brought them out of Egypt. Jesus offers the crowd streams of living waters. By this He meant that by receiving His Word they would have eternal salvation. The Spirit was the living water who be coming after Jesus ascended into heaven.

For more in-depth commentary on each reading, read the notes found after each text below.

OLD TESTAMENT – Numbers 11:24-30

²⁴ So Moses went out and told the people what the LORD had said. He brought together seventy of their elders and had them stand around the Tent. ²⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took of the Spirit that was on him and put the Spirit on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied, but they did not do so again. ²⁶ However, two men, whose names were Eldad and Medad, had remained in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but did not go out to the Tent. Yet the Spirit also rested on them, and they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷ A young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." ²⁸ Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' aide since youth, spoke up and said, "Moses, my lord, stop them!" ²⁹ But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!" ³⁰ Then Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

11:25 they prophesied.† The Hebrew verb here is not in the form in which it is usually found to express the mediation of a prophetic message through the Spirit. It probably means that they gave ecstatic expression to an intense religious experience. (CSB)

11:28 *Joshua...stop them.* Joshua feared that Eldad and Medad were assuming authority in competition with Moses. However, Moses assured him that the Lord gives His Spirit under various conditions for the same purpose. (TLSB)

11:29 *all ... prophets.* Fulfilled at Pentecost (Ac 2). Even so, the Lord provides His people with leaders (Eph 4:8–16). (TLSB)

EPISTLE – Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. ⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.” ¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷”“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

2:2 *violent wind.* Breath or wind is a symbol of the Spirit of God. (CSB)

2:3 *fire.* A symbol of the divine presence, it was also associated with judgment. (CSB)

2:4 *in other tongues.* Miraculous ability to communicate in foreign languages the speakers had never learned. (TLSB)

2:5 *God-fearing Jews.* Jews dispersed throughout the world who piously observed the Law, now in Jerusalem to observe the required feasts. (TLSB)

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷”“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before

the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

2:17–18 all people ... sons ... daughters ... young men ... old men ... men ... women. The Spirit is bestowed on all, irrespective of sex, age and rank. (CSB)

2:20 day of the Lord. When Christ returns in glory. (TLSB)

GOSPEL – John 7:37-39

³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

7:37 stood and said in a loud voice. Teachers usually sat, so Jesus drew special attention to his message. (CSB)

7:38 living water. He applied the same image He had used to lead the Samaritan woman to faith at Jacob’s well (4:14). The Scriptures had predicted this truth (Isaiah 58:11; Zechariah 14:8). Those who come to Jesus and drink are those who believe in Him, as His next words revealed. And everyone who believes not only has received life-giving water, but “streams of living water will flow from within him.” (PBC)

7:39 the Spirit. God’s Holy Spirit leads thirsty souls to Jesus. He works the faith that drinks the refreshment Jesus offers. The Spirit enters the heart of a believer, and the believer calls others to learn of Jesus. (PBC)

7:39 glorified. Hour of the crucifixion (cf 12:23–27). (TLSB)