

The Whole Counsel



“For I did not shrink back from declaring to you the whole counsel of God” ~ Acts 20:27

The Kingdom of God & Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost is about the moment the church was born. It is about the Holy Spirit bringing people together as one in spite of their differences: different cultures, different languages, different traditions. Pentecost is about being unified in a salvation that is for all people.

Matthew 4:12-20 (NIV)

Jesus Begins to Preach

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people living in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

From that time on Jesus began to preach, “**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.**”

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “**Come, follow me,**” Jesus said, “**and I will send you out to fish for people.**” At once they left their nets and followed him.

Application for abundant living:

To be a member of the kingdom of God, we must repent. What does that mean though? We must express sincere remorse for our wrongdoings. We must also confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior (Messiah). When we do that, the Holy Spirit comes and dwells within us so that we are always connected with God and have the spiritual sign of being a citizen in the kingdom of God. Are you living in a way that your physical life mirrors your spiritual life? Can others tell by your words and actions that you are a citizen of God’s kingdom?



Your Notes (what God is saying to you)

Further Study for a deeper understanding:

Read: Daniel 7:13-14, Matt. 4:17, Matt. 16:13-20, Luke 17:20-21, 2 Corinth. 5:16-21, Ephes. 6:10-18, 1 Peter 2:1-10 (also found in the Daily Readings & HUMC App)

Consider that the kingdom of God is not visible with human eyes — it is a spiritual kingdom. So how can we know its boundaries?

Questions to personally consider:

- How has the gift of the Holy Spirit impacted your life?
- What is the evidence of your citizenship in God's kingdom? Or have you been a more vocal & active citizen of the world?
- Do you know who the ruler is of this world? Read John 12:31 and 1 John 5:19 to confirm your answer.