

Scripture Notes on Pentecost Sunday Year B

The Full Pentecost Account is found in Acts 2:1-11 (Real Pentecost, Please Speak up!)

A Mini-Pentecost is found in John 20:19-23

“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

Confused? Not Yet! Is this another pre-Pentecost prep, in Acts 1:1-5?

“In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the **promise of the Father** (another name for Advocate?) about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but **in a few days you will be baptized with the holy Spirit.**”

Acts 2:6-8 “..they were confused because each one heard them **speaking in his own language.**

They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, “Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then *how does each of us hear them in his own native language?*”

St Paul on Tongues

1 Corinthians 14:2 “For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to human beings but to God, for no one listens; he utters mysteries in spirit.”

1 Corinthians 14:9 “Similarly, if you, because of speaking in tongues, do not utter intelligible speech, how will anyone know what is being said? For you will be talking to the air.”

1 Corinthians 14:19 “but in the church I would rather speak five words with my mind, so as to instruct others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.”

Foreign or Second Languages

How about sign language? Gestures? Body language?

OR “Actions speak louder than words” & “A picture is worth a thousand words”

What about the language of love, or language of the Spirit (what some call ‘prayer language’)?

OR “What you are trying to say is not what is coming out of your mouth (or they hear)?”

Romans 8:26-27 “In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for *we do not know how to pray* as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes *with inexpressible groanings.*

And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

1 Corinthians 14:10-12 “It happens that there are many different languages in the world, and none is meaningless; but if I do not know the meaning of a language, I shall be a foreigner to one who

speaks it, and one who speaks it a foreigner to me. So with yourselves: since you strive eagerly for spirits, seek to have an abundance of them for building up the church.”

1 Corinthians 14: 13 “Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray to be able to interpret.”

Whose words or ears– God speaking in us – or we hearing as God would have us hear?

At times, God speak to us in silence of hearts

Hosea 2:16 “Therefore, I will allure her now; I will lead her into the wilderness and speak gently to her.” Some translate, “I will lead you to the desert and speak to your heart.”

Psalm 27:8 “Come,” says my heart, “seek his face”; your face, LORD, do I seek.”

Psalm 51:6 “then in the secret of my heart, teach me wisdom.”

Psalm 139: 23 “Search me, God, know my heart; try me, know my thoughts....”

What about the Tiny Whispering sound of Elijah’s experience: 1 Kings 19:12?

Good Question from Genesis: Adam had named all animals – their name in *what language?*

Genesis 2: 19 “So the LORD God formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see *what he would call them*; whatever the man called each living creature was then its name.

Revelation 2:17 “Whoever has ears ought to hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the victor I shall give some of the hidden manna; I shall also give a white amulet upon which is inscribed a new name, which no one knows except the one who receives it.”

Revelation 3:12 ““The victor I will make into a pillar in the temple of my God, and he will never leave it again. On him I will inscribe the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from my God, as well as my new name.”

Prophecy is a distinct gift from tongues

What are Angels’ Tongues?

1 Corinthians 13:1 “If I speak in human and **angelic tongues** (?) but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.”

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 “But as it is written: “What eye has not seen, and **ear has not heard**, and what has **not entered the human heart**, what God has prepared for those who love him,” (Isaiah 64:3) this God has revealed to us through the Spirit.”

Tower of Babel Incident

Genesis 11:1 “**The whole world had the same language and the same words.**”

Genesis 11:6-9 “Then the LORD said: If now, while they are one people and all have the same language, they have started to do this, nothing they presume to do will be out of their reach. Come, **let us go down and there confuse their language**, so that no one will understand the speech of another. So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the speech of all the world. From there the LORD **scattered** them over all the earth.”

Confusion of Tongues as Judgement

Isaiah 28 11 “Yes, with stammering lips and in a strange language, he will speak to this people”

Isaiah 6:9 “And he replied: Go and say to this people: Listen carefully, but do not understand! Look intently, but do not perceive!”

Mark 4:11-12 Jesus said, “But to those outside everything comes in parables, so that ‘they may look and see but not perceive, and hear and listen but not understand, in order that they may not be converted and be forgiven.’”

Tongues or Prayer Language (Incomprehensible) of Old Testament

1 Samuel 10: 5-6 ***King Saul just anointed by Samuel has religious experience***

“After that you will come to Gibeath-elohim, where the Philistine garrison is located. As you enter that city, you will meet a band of prophets coming down from the high place. They will be preceded by lyres, tambourines, flutes, and harps, and will be in prophetic ecstasy. The spirit of the LORD will rush upon you, and you will join them in their prophetic ecstasy and will become a changed man.”

Then in Samuel 1:19-24 *to prevent Saul’s seizing of David, the Spirit in prophecy diverts Saul’s plans* “he (Saul) sent officers to arrest David. But when they saw the band of prophets presided over by Samuel in a ***prophetic state***, the spirit of God came upon them and they too fell into the ***prophetic ecstasy***. Informed of this, Saul sent other messengers, who also fell into the ***prophetic ecstasy***. For the third time Saul sent messengers, but they too fell into a ***prophetic ecstasy***. Finally Saul went to Ramah himself. Arriving at the large cistern in Secu, he asked, “Where are Samuel and David?” Someone answered, “At Naioth in Ramah.” As he walked from there to Naioth in Ramah, the spirit of God came upon him also, and he continued on, acting like a prophet until he reached Naioth in Ramah. Then he, too, stripped himself of his garments and remained in a prophetic state in the presence of Samuel; all that day and night he lay naked. That is why they say, “Is Saul also among the prophets?” (David dances /sings before Ark 2 Samuel 6:14-16)

God – Source of all Language – “In the beginning was the Word” John 1:1

Isaiah 29:18 “On that day the deaf shall hear the words of a scroll”

Deuteronomy 28:49 “The LORD will raise up against you a nation from afar, from the end of the earth, that swoops down like an eagle, a nation whose language you do not understand,”

Isaiah 66:18 “I am coming to gather all nations and tongues; they shall come & see my glory.”

Joel 3:1 (2:28) “It shall come to pass I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. “