

DISCUSSION NOTES

Living Waters Church

Title: Pentecost Sunday.

Speaker: Doug Smith

Read: Acts 2: 1-12

Read: Luke 6:1-11

The question that was asked in (verse 12) was, "what does this mean?"

Question: How would you answer this?

Answer: In the absence of Jesus on earth, the Spirit was sent to continue the Kingdom work with us. The Spirit came not only to be a faithful guide and counselor transforming faithful believers, but He came to give every Christian from then to now, open access to the empowerment of the Holy Spirit; to give us what it takes to be literal world changers. Empowered believers, who would, with the partnership of the Holy Spirit restore lost life and love as Jesus loved. Believers that would not only give a nod to God's plan to rescue the world but be an active part of it. A family of faithful disciples destined to walk with the same Spirit Jesus did, to have access to a Holy Resource that can and will move mountains no matter their size, their complexity or the dark shadow they cast.

Read Luke 6:1-11

What was Jesus communicating with his reference to the Sabbath and His healing of the man on the Sabbath?

Jesus once again affirms His position as the Messiah and rightfully puts love over law and He does it for all to see. Bringing the man front and centre He asks the teachers and Pharisees, Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?" The crux of the matter is before his opponents - one can imagine them beginning to squirm, as Jesus looks them straight in the eye and raises the anti from grain to goodness. At the same time, Jesus exposes their evil intentions to see Him taken out. Instead of considering good deeds on a Sabbath the Pharisees themselves are plotting the demise of Jesus, the destruction of a life rather than the saving of life. While the Pharisees would have preferred the man suffer before seeing the rules broken, Jesus does "good" on the Sabbath and He heals the man's hand. The real transgressors of the Sabbath were the

rule bound teachers and Pharisees. Being exposed as such they left more than miffed and began plotting the end of Jesus' ministry.

Application:

On this Pentecost Sunday let's consider that the same Spirit that broke through at Pentecost is seen at work in the verses we have just looked at.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

#1. Positioned to be Breakthrough People: Jesus said, "The Son of Man is Lord, even over the Sabbath." As people of the Spirit we are positioned as Jesus was to breakthrough to the needs of our culture today. Not only was Jesus right in healing the man and allowing his disciples to eat grain that day, He made it clear that over and above the ways of man; His way is the best way forward. Jesus was and is Lord and no matter what, His truths will always take precedence. In this age we must be diligent in holding to Kingdom truths and in the greatest of love, break through confusion to His best way forward.

As Jesus followers we are uniquely positioned and assigned to break through to brokenness, desperation and loss with the love and hope of Christ. And we don't do it alone. Through our openness to hear and respond to the guiding empowerment of the Spirit not only can we expect to find ourselves in places and situations in which we can make a Kingdom difference, He will be there to help us. Luke 12:12 says "For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what needs to be said." We must recognize that we are a sent people who not only breakthrough to our culture in love, but work to overpower the lies of the enemy who seeks to kill, steal and destroy those Jesus came to save. The Holy Spirit comes along side and partners with us to be bold in love, to be courageous to be the ones who make a difference in our age because we are a breakthrough people.

#2. Positioned to Believers of the Impossible. "Hold out your hand." So, the man held out his hand, and it was restored! The man did not hesitate, with great faith he held out his hand with the expectation that Jesus was going to do something. A close relationship with the Holy Spirit increases our faith, and in particular our faith for the impossible. Knowing God is with us, that God is in us and that the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead wants to work through us should significantly bolster our belief in the impossible. One of the things that drew people to Jesus was the impossibility of His miracles including what was evidenced on the Day of Pentecost

when the disciples prayed and praised in tongues of many nations. There is room, in fact there is need for the impossible to occur today and change unbelief to belief... even within ourselves. We must be as willing as the man was to extend our hands and believe God wants to see the impossible occur through us! The work of the impossible, of miracles begins with the Holy Spirit and a filled and empowered relationship with Him. May we be a people who believe and are a part of the impossible work of God.

#3. Positioned to be Spirit Empowered Lifesavers. Jesus asked, "Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?" It may seem odd to consider ourselves as lifesavers, but before we throw out the idea completely let's consider the Spirit empowered work of Jesus. He was known as a lifesaver, a healer, a restorer of what was lost, just as He restored the man's hand from broken to whole. People were drawn to the healing restoring work of Jesus because it spoke of rescue, of receiving life in the fullest. We throw out lifelines as individual believers and we provide hope and rescue as His church. We are positioned by the Holy Spirit to rescue, restore and save life!

#4. Positioned to live Loved and Liberated.

6 One Sabbath day as Jesus was walking through some grain fields, his disciples broke off heads of grain, rubbed off the husks in their hands, and ate the grain. Jesus put the needs and well-being of His disciples over and above the rules and requirements of the Sabbath and He does that, and more for us. As his modern-day disciples, we are the recipients of a love like no other love. As Spirit filled believers we are reminded of the constancy of that love through His advocacy, guidance and every day counsel. Through the work of the cross and the reminder of the Spirit we live lives liberated from our messes, from our sin. With the help of the Holy Spirit we face tomorrow with the assurance we are saved. We will always be cared for and we will never be alone. Today is a good day to celebrate the coming of the Spirit and our positioning as loved and liberated. If God is for us, who can be against us!

Read Acts 2:17- 18

Question: How do these verses give courage and faith to you?