

GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 19, 2024

DAY OF PENTECOST

After the Wind and Fire

Jesus had his own way of urging hearers to “not miss the forest for the trees.” Recall some of his familiar lines: “You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel” (Matthew 23:24), “Do you have eyes, and fail to see? Do you have ears, and fail to hear?” (Mark 8:18), or “Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?” (Luke 6:41). Look deeply. Listen carefully. Then pay attention to what is most important.

Attention-grabbing as the wonders on the Day of Pentecost may be—a house filled with rushing wind, tongues of fire alighting on the heads of apostles, and the whirling of alien languages from stupefied mouths—take care to not let their bewildering extraordinariness blunt the true and greater wonder of this gospel event: the Advocate comes.

All the times and events of Jesus’ life—among close followers, watchers from afar, believers as well as doubters; the astounding miracles, puzzling parables, curious teachings, and scandalous associations—were for one purpose only: to open to all of them, to the whole world, the mercy and love of God.

But Jesus will not be at hand for long in the room, at the table, on the road and hillside, at the temple or synagogue, in the boat. The sound of his voice will become a memory; the image of his face will fade from sight. So, what happens when the hopeful days with Jesus end?

The Advocate comes! Yes, we retell the story now of an extraordinary moment of one ancient day on Pentecost, but oh, the greater, true gospel wonder is the ever-extraordinary presence of Jesus’ Spirit bringing us hope and the way of God’s mercy and love meant for, given to, and enduring in the world forever. Pray that we have eyes to see it and ears to hear of it.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.