The Feast of Pentecost
Mother's Day
Rolling Meadows -- 1978

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IN NOMINE JESU

ACTS 2: 1-21

Several weeks ago some of us pastors were sitting around talking when someone raised the question: "What are you going to do when May 14th comes this year -- preach about the Feast of Pentecost or Mother's Day?" The majority agreed that they would devote t service to PENTECOST -- since that festival went all the way back to the "Feast of Booths" in the Old Testament & the outpouring of the Spirit in the NEW — and MOTHER'S DAY only began in 1914. I listened quietly when someone said, "Thrun, you're the guy with the liturgical bent. What are you goin to do?" I smiled and said, "As a matter of fact, I'll probably preach on both." Everybody laughed, insinuating that that would be virtually impossible. It really isn't -- not if you have paid close attention to what happened on PENTECOST.

The DAY had come -- the ONE Jesus spoke about when He said to His disciples in the las few minutes before His Ascension: "YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COM UPON YOU." ..... It was a GREAT DAY -- a GREAT NEW BEGINNING -- the START OF A NEW ERA It was accompanied by LITTLE FLAMES -- like SPLIT TONGUES OF FIRE. A GREAT WIND blew and "FILLED ALL THE HOUSE WHERE THEY WERE SITTING." "AND THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BEGAN TO SPEAK IN OTHER TONGUES" -- tongues people could understan -- "AS THE SPIRIT GAVE THEM UTTERANCE." It was then that Peter stood up and preached the first Christian sermon. He began with a quotation from the prophet Joel: "IN THE

LAST DAYS IT SHALL BE, GOD DECLARES, THAT I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT UPON ALL FLESH, AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHESY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS AND YOU OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS; YEA, AND ON MY MENSERVANTS AND MY MAIDSERVANTS IN THOSE DAYS I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT; AND THEY SHALL PROPHESY."

youth - Women

It is the SIGN OF THE SPIRIT that YOUNG MEN and YOUNG WOMEN will prophesy. "YOUR SON AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHESY." * ..... There have always been people in the history of the Christian Church who have identified the GIFT OF THE SPIRIT with the ability to "speak in tongues." I must say that on this occasion at least the "tongues" were those people had learned to speak from their MOTHER'S KNEE. "THEY WERE BEWILDERED BECAUSE EACH ONE HEARD THEM SPEAKING IN HIS OWN LANGUAGE." Then quite a number of places are mentions where these tongues were spoken. The people were "AMAZED AND WONDERED" because, as they said, "WE HEAR THEM TELLING IN OUR OWN TONGUES THE MIGHTY WORKS OF GOD. AND ALL WERE AMAZED AND PERPLEXED, SAYING TO ONE ANOTHER, 'WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?' BUT OTHERS MOCKING SAID, 'THEY ARE FILLED WITH NEW WINE.'"

Actually, the SPEAKING OF THE SPIRIT down through the ages has been mostly through SONS AND DAUGHTERS. Speaking in SONS AND DAUGHTERS, the SPIRIT has carried forward the CAUSE OF JESUS CHRIST. It is alive today because those SONS AND DAUGHTERS still "PROPHESY." They "PROPHESY" because, for the most part, CHRISTIAN MOTHERS, filled

themselves with the HOLY SPIRIT, have taken the time and the effort to "BRING ~~THEIR~~ the ~~CHILDREN~~ UP IN THE NURTURE AND ADMONITION OF THE LORD" and to teach them the "LOVE OF GOD" as they too have come to know it "IN THE FACE OF CHRIST JESUS." And there the Holy Spirit has been to call, enlighten, & sanctify.

Right at the beginning of the LETTER TO THE HEBREWS the author says: "IN MANY AND VARIOUS WAYS GOD SPOKE OF OLD TO OUR FATHERS BY THE PROPHETS; BUT IN THESE LAST DAYS HE HAS SPOKEN TO US BY HIS SON." We all know how that happened through the BLESSED VIRGIN MOTHER (another woman) -- when the angel appeared to her and said: "YOU WILL BE HONORED ABOVE ALL WOMEN. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU..... AND YOU WILL BECOME THE MOTHER OF THE HOLY ONE OF GOD."

No longer did God have to describe HIS LOVE in just words. He "LOVED THE WORLD SO MUC THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON." No longer did God have to prove the TRUTH of His words. "I am the Way, the Truth, & the Life!" HIS SON is truth and life. "IN HIM WAS LIFE, AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN." God took into His own heart the REALITY OF OUR HUMANITY -- and He is still among us to TOUCH and to HEAL, as He was among us to BLEED, and DIE, and RISE AGAIN.

When JOHN THE BAPTIZER was in prison, he had some questions about the identity of Jesu He sent his disciples to Jesus with the question: "ARE YOU HE WHO SHOULD COME, OR SHAL WE LOOK FOR ANOTHER?" Jesus answered them: "THE BLIND RECEIVE THEIR SIGHT AND THE LAM

WALK, LEPERS ARE CLEANSED AND THE DEAF HEAR, THE DEAD ARE RAISED UP, AND THE POOR HAV GOOD NEWS PREACHED TO THEM."

Now that's PROPHESYING! That's FORTHTELLING! When Jesus came, He put HIS ACTIONS right where the WORDS OF THE PROPHETS said they would be. In the SYNAGOG AT NAZARETH He put it as plainly as He could: "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PREACH GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR; HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO TH CAPTIVES AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSE TO PROCLAIM THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD." ..... Now, that's PROPHESYING. That's FORTHTELLING."

God is speaking that way in PROPHECY today through "SONS AND DAUGHTERS." Some of the greatest examples of FAITH IN CHRIST that I have seen were in YOUNG PEOPLE. They have a heart for the POOR -- very often more than do their elders. They TALK and they ACT! Their ACTIONS sometimes speak louder than their WORDS. "THE YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIO AND THE OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS. ON MY SERVANTS AND ON MY HANDMAIDENS I WILL POUR OUT IN THOSE DAYS OF MY SPIRIT AND THEY SHALL PROPHESY." It is happening all the time The SPIRIT OF THE LORD is at work in the world.

"DON'T GRIEVE THE SPIRIT," said St. Paul. Don't use EVIL COMMUNICATION. Say only wha

is GOOD AND HELPFUL to those you are talking to. That will give them a BLESSING. Don't give the Holy Spirit SORROW by the WAY YOU LIVE. Remember He is the ONE Who marks you to be PRESENT on that day when SALVATION FROM SIN will be complete. Stop being MEAN, BAD-TEMPERED, and ANGRY; QUARRELING, HARSH WORDS, and DISLIKE OF OTHERS should have no place in your lives. "INSTEAD, BE KIND TO EACH OTHER, TENDERHEARTED, FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, JUST AS GOD HAS FORGIVEN YOU BECAUSE YOU BELONG TO CHRIST."

Do you begin to see now how PENTECOST and MOTHER'S DAY fit together? The SPIRIT speal in "SONS" -- your sons, and in "DAUGHTERS" -- your daughters ----- whom you have brou up to know JESUS CHRIST as LORD AND SAVIOR. These "SONS AND DAUGHTERS" TRUST JESUS CHRIST and they LIVE THE LIFE OF CHRIST. They "PROPHESY!" They FORTHTELL! And it is all because of the PROMISE OF PENTECOST: "I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHESY." And to them the Lord says today as He said then: "HE WHO HEARS YOU, HEARS ME." Amen.