

January 18, 2015

Wind & Fire!

2nd in a series of 3

Worship Slide: The Basin & Towel: (with Audio)

John 13: Jesus said, 'you also should wash one another's feet.' And just like we have demonstrated up here this morning... we are inviting you to join us in this Basin & Towel demonstration of love on Monday evening, February 2, right here at TL and follow it up with Communion. It seems timely for this to come right at the end of our week of fasting.

Worship Slide: Communion You may wonder why? Why would we do this? Jesus gave this instruction for a reason... because we can quickly become calloused towards others and become me centered and washing someone's feet takes a certain amount of humility. I know we don't walk dusty roads in our bare feet today, like they did in the NT and we don't make it a practice of washing our feet when we enter someone's house... but I believe that one of the reasons many churches don't practice this today... is because it feels humbling, uncomfortable and irrelevant. This will be a first for TL, but over this past year the Lord has convicted me take this step of faith, because serving is central to our Clarian Call.

Worship Slide: Clarian Call: Receiving God's love is our vertical relationship... but Rebuilding and Restoring is horizontal. The basin & Towel calls us to service and it is simply a reminder, a call, a challenge

January 18, 2015

to stoop down, be willing to get our hands dirty and serve others. So I encourage you today to lay down your reservations or pride or inhibitions or anything else that may get in your way... and Join us on Monday evening February 2.

Worship Slide: Bucket Offering: Invite the ushers up... World Vision

Worship: Kathleen

- Great are You Lord
- I Will Never Be

Sermon: marlin

I will never be, the same again
I can never return, I've closed the door
I will walk the path, I'll run the race
And I will never, be the same again
I love that song!

Fall like fire soak like rain
Flow like mighty waters again and again
Sweep away the darkness burn away the chaff
And let a flame burn to glorify Your name

This is Holy Spirit language and we are in the middle of a conversation about the Holy Spirit.

Slide #1 This past Tuesday morning at our 4 o'clock prayer meeting one of the men prayed, that these

January 18, 2015

messages would 'Generate New Desires!' I thought that was a profound request and certainly gives witness to what is on my heart. Let's bow our heads and pray that prayer!

Last week I shared that the Holy Spirit is a person. He is not a 'thing' or an 'it' or a 'power' or 'spook' or a 'ghost'. He is the 3rd person of the Trinity and he needs to be treated as such.

Slide #2 Ephesians 5:15-18 TLB So be careful how you act; these are difficult days. Don't be fools; be wise: make the most of every opportunity you have for doing good. Don't act thoughtlessly, but try to find out and do whatever the Lord wants you to. Don't drink too much wine, for many evils lie along that path; be filled instead with the Holy Spirit and controlled by him.

Be filled instead with the Holy Spirit!

Slide #3 Jack Hayford tells the story about a guy named Hank who illustrated to him the power and the work of the Holy Spirit.

In his younger years, money was tight for Jack... and his wife wanted a piano, so he finally found one for sale that was affordable... only \$5. The catch was... he was responsible to move it... and the problem was...there were steps up out of the building... 87 in total.

January 18, 2015

But Jack was not concerned at all... because Jack had a friend named Hank. Hank weighted 240 LBS and 238 of those pounds were muscle... and Hank agreed to help. And in order to encourage Hank to move the piano, Jack got 6 other guys... 'to help'.

And Jack described it this way... Hank thought he had 6 guys helping him, however, in reality the 6 guys were just balancing it on Hanks back, and Hank was doing all the work... but because he was such a beast... he never knew the difference.

Slide #4 This is so much like the Holy Spirit... he is... God come beside us, to work in us, in ways that will bring through us... things that could never be otherwise.

Last week I showed you a clutch assembly and described in detail how a clutch works and I explained that the beauty of a stick shift is that when the clutch is out, or engaged, the plates are locked together so that when the engine spins everything spins... including the tires.

The clutch that I showed you last week was brand new and very small because it was for a 1990 Honda Civic.

It was on loan to us from Pep Boys... so it had to go back... but the one I have this week is a totally different animal.

January 18, 2015

Slide #5 This clutch assembly comes from this 1995 Camaro, which doesn't look like much, however it is equipped with a high performance 5.7 LT1 Corvette engine... turning out about 275 horse power. And this time we have not only the pressure plate and the clutch plate, but we also have the fly wheel.

Now remember the Fly wheel is bolted to the engine and to the pressure plate so that when the engine spins... they both spin. But the clutch plate is mounted on the transmission shaft and only spins when the clutch is out... pressing these plates together and locking it in.

The owner of this car is about 16 years of age and is a descendent from a religious group of people in Lancaster County that refuse to drive cars. I tried to get his picture along with the car... but that didn't work out so well. So when this young man jumped into the driver's seat of his 1995 Camaro... he had no idea what kind of power he was dealing with. Within a week he had fried the clutch, which is why I have it this morning, because he applied way too much power in the process of locking in the clutch. In fact he asked his mechanic... when I'm at a red light... and the light turns green... how much gas do I give it? And obviously he had been giving it... way too much!

The key is locking it in... not burning it up!

Slide #6 So we have titled these messages 'Locked In', because we want to learn how to get locked into

January 18, 2015

the Holy Spirit of God... so we can become fully engaged with and completely connected to the Spirit of God... so that when the Holy Spirit moves, we move and when the Holy Spirit stops, we stop.

Slide #7 So that we can experience... things that could never be otherwise!

Since we are talking about the Holy Spirit... we are exploring six symbols of the Holy Spirit... two each week. Now a symbol is a sign or a representation of the real thing. It's not the real thing... but rather just a representation of it. For example...

Slide #8 The eagle symbolizes freedom. The bald eagle was chosen June 20, 1782 as the emblem of the United States of America, because of its long life, great strength and majestic looks.

The eagle isn't freedom, in fact there are some eagles that are very much in captivity, but the eagle symbolizes freedom

So this morning we are going to look at the 3rd and 4th symbols of the Holy Spirit from the scriptures.

Slide #9 The title of the message this morning is Wind and Fire. Let's go to our notes.

Slide #10 Symbol #3 The Holy Spirit will breath wind into our lives. (The Artwork) – A special thank you to Dan Armstrong, the Cable Guy for his creation of the wind.

January 18, 2015

There was a man in the NT named Nicodemus and he was a ruler among the Pharisees. The Pharisees were a strict, legalistic, separatist wing of the Jewish religion.

For some reason he came to Jesus at night. We don't know why he waited until evening... maybe he didn't want to be identified with Jesus or maybe he just wanted to have a long talk... we don't know for sure. But what we do know is that he had some questions. He wondered how Jesus could do all the miracles that he did and he was curious as to whether God was helping him do them. Nicodemus was intrigued with the supernatural... just like many today. Think about the popularity of the Lord of the Rings Trilogy.

I find it interesting that Jesus kind of went around, and kind of side stepped, the miracles question and replied... you never will 'get it' unless you are born again. To which Nicodemus replied, how can a guy as old as me be born again... obviously I can't go inside my mother and come out again... so how can I be born again. Let me turn to it.

Slide #11 John 3:5-8 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

Slide #12 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes

January 18, 2015

from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

And right here Jesus introduces this fascinating idea about the wind and the Spirit, because this is precisely the place where many seeking people get bogged down. They know about God, they read about God, they go to Church, they ask questions about God, they pray to God... but yet they can't see him... and therefore often deny he exists!

Let's take a closer look at the Wind and the Spirit.

Slide #13 What are the characteristics of the wind:

1. We can hear it
2. We cannot see it.
3. We see the effects of it.
4. We can feel it.
5. We can be moved by it or resist it.
6. We will never fully understand it.

So is the ministry of the Holy Spirit of God. What Jesus has so masterfully done is to give us an untouchable illustration that is so practical that we can make the connection and get locked in the movement of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is like the wind! On one hand he is all powerful and unstoppable.

Slide #14 Think about it... we can't control the path of a tornado. Selfie!

January 18, 2015

Slide #15 And yet he is compelling and irresistible like the whisper of the breeze.

He is mysterious! He is sovereign. Who understands the wind? Jesus said, 'The wind blows wherever it pleases!' Meteorologists can predict and speculate and map it out... and yet the wind does whatever it pleases... regardless of the forecast. Think about it... on a windy day one leaf blows and another leaf lays motionless... go figure! In the same way one person responds to the Holy Spirit and another person doesn't.

We can choose to submit to the breeze of the Holy Spirit and lock in and allow him to guide us... some of you are experiencing that today... or we can resist him and stiff arm his movements... and some of you know exactly what I'm talking about.

So Jesus promised us, that when he left, to go back to his Father, he would send the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, this sacred air, to come in power and here is the account.

Slide #16 Acts 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Slide #17 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

January 18, 2015

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Notice the symbol of the wind... 'a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the house where they were sitting.' They couldn't see it, they couldn't touch it, but they couldn't deny it had arrived because but they could feel it and they could see the effects of it... the Holy Spirit had arrived in power.

This was the birth of the Church, the Ekklesia, the called out ones... and in this same account we are introduced to...

Slide #18 Symbol #4 The Holy Spirit will refine us with fire. (The Artwork)

'They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them'

John the Baptist said...

Slide #19 Matthew 3:11 I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Slide #20 Hebrews 12:28-29 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."

January 18, 2015

Why fire? Why did the Holy Spirit arrive on what appeared to be tongues of fire? Why would Jesus baptize us with fire? Why is God a consuming fire?

Fire often accompanied God's revelation of himself in the OT.

- Moses in the burning bush
- God led the Israelites with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night
- God descended on Mt. Sinai in fire... when giving the Ten Commandments and we read that smoke covered the mountain and billowed up from the mountain like a furnace.
- Elijah called down fire to burn up the sacrifice to prove that God was God!

Slide #21 Why fire? Fire symbolizes... let's go to our notes.

1. Judgment – Sodom and Gomorrah!
2. Destruction – What comes as a result of judgment?

But it also symbolizes

3. Purification – burning off the junk
4. Refinement – making something new

Slide #22 Zechariah 13:9 This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold.

January 18, 2015

Slide #23 Malachi 3:2-3 But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver.

Through a little research... I learned that in the days of Malachi... in order for silver to be refined... the silversmith needed to hold the metal in the middle of the fire, where the flames were the hottest, so as to burn away all the impurities. It was important that he not only hold the silver the entire time, but that he kept his eyes on the silver the entire time, so as to not overheat it... which would destroy it... but long enough that all dross would be completely removed. Clean molten silver would then shine with a mirror-like quality when it was ready to be poured. Some would say that silver is fully refined when the silver smith can see his reflection in it.

Slide #24 Isaiah 48:10 Msg Do you see what I've done? I've refined you, but not without fire. I've tested you like silver in the furnace of affliction.

Maybe this past week you have felt the heat of the furnace of affliction. Just remember that God has His eyes on you and will keep His hand on you and watch over you until He sees His image in you.

So to be baptized by the Holy Spirit means that we allow this Sacred Air to get a hold of us and to permeate our lives and purify us and refine us... so that all of our distractions and agendas and competing

January 18, 2015

loves are burnt off and nothing stands in the way to keep us from being locked in.

Over the years there has been much controversy in the Church over the baptism of the Holy Spirit and I'm going to talk about it more next week... as we prepare for a week of fasting... but I believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit isn't so much a question of how much of the Holy Spirit we have... but rather how much of our lives have we surrendered to the Holy Spirit.

Invite Lisa and Nichole up:

So when I ask for the Holy Spirit to baptize me... it's not for the purpose of manifesting signs and tongues and wonders... as some would say... but rather it is a baptism of fire!

It is for the express purpose of abandonment, he becomes the very air that we breathe! And when we allow that Sacred Air to blow in us... it will fan the fires of purification...as painful as they may be... and the floodgates will open up and a mighty river will flow out of us!

Folks I want you to listen to this song. This is a song of invitation. Are you willing today to drive a stake in the ground and invite the Holy Spirit to baptize you with fire?

Slide #25 Prayer & Reflection: Special Music

This is the air I breathe – Lisa and Nicole

January 18, 2015

Benediction:

The Spirit blows.

The Spirit burns.

The Spirit refines.

The Spirit tempers.

So it is... that those born of the Spirit know a flame...

that consumes the hearts of mighty men.

They have strength and resolve... forged in the
furnace of the Holy Spirit.

It is our privilege to live in these days.

Go and yield to the hand of the King.