

6/8/11

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (In unison) O God, send us the Holy Spirit, who cuts us to the heart with the Word of God, who opens our hearts to hear the language of Your love, and who enters our hearts that out of them may flow streams of living water; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Numbers 11:24-30

(The Spirit descends on the elders of Israel)

24 So Moses went out and told the people what the LORD had said. He brought together seventy of their elders and had them stand around the Tent. 25 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took of the Spirit that was on him and put the Spirit on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied, but they did not do so again. 26 However, two men, whose names were Eldad and Medad, had remained in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but did not go out to the Tent. Yet the Spirit also rested on them, and they prophesied in the camp.

27 A young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." 28 Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' aide since youth, spoke up and said, "Moses, my lord, stop them!" 29 But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!" 30 Then Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

THE EPISTLE LESSON Acts 2:1-21

(The Day of Pentecost)

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs-- we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" 13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. 20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. 21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

THE SERMON

"If All had the Spirit!"

Numbers 11

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Numbers 11:24-30

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The work of God Belongs to everyone

11:22 Would they have enough if flocks and herds were slaughtered for them? Would they have enough if all the fish in the sea were caught for them?" 23 The LORD answered Moses, **"Is the LORD's arm too short? You will now see whether or not what I say will come true for you."**

INTRO - Have you seen the commercials? They ask if you are tired, run down. You can get anything from caffeine, to hormones, to sleep aids to help you. I bet the tired people are still tired, unless they change some parts of their lives.

I. Does the church ever seem tired to you? **(write)**

A. The church seemed tired to Moses.

1. Moses was dealing with problems. Not the biggest problems, but persistent problems that could become bigger problems.
2. The people complained that all they had to eat was manna. "We want to go back to Egypt." was their basic thought.
3. There were 600,000 men, and women and children. How do you deal with a growing bad attitude?
4. So, Moses complained to God. I can't do it, I need help.

B. Judy and I were talking today about the need for volunteers. There is a need for people to help her with the non-skilled labor, and for some skilled labor. But, she has trouble finding those people. So many people are already busy, maybe too busy, overworked and tired. Many are tapped elsewhere. Where do we find people with energy, willing hearts, and joyful attitudes of faith to do these jobs? When people don't have time or willingness to serve God, it can be like the church lacks energy and desire.

II. God heard Moses and helped.

A. That is today's lesson

1. First, I wish that the assigned reading began a little earlier. When the people complained of only manna, God says he'll provide. Moses asks "How?". He says, there are 600,000 men plus others. God's answer, **"Is the LORD's arm too short? You will now see whether or not what I say will come true for you."** In other words, *"With God all things are possible."*
2. So God actually deals with a bigger problem, attitudes, by giving Moses help. Seventy Elders are brought out of camp to the Tabernacle and God shows support for Moses and these men by giving them the Spirit. Only, 2 Elders, Eldad and Medad were not present. But they receive the Spirit and prophesy too. Others are jealous for Moses.
3. Moses replies, **I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!"**
4. Moses recognizes that God's work is not just for one or two, but for all God's children.

B. Pentecost is God's answer to the power shortage in the church **(write)**

1. First, God does not just call some to be His children
 - a. Actually, God is Father to all through creation, though all do not recognize this truth.
 - b. And, Jesus did not just die and rise for some, but, "God so love

the *world* that He gave His one and only Son.

2. In Numbers Moses prays, **I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!"**
3. On Pentecost God fulfills the promise of Joel. As Peter says in Acts 2, ***17 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. 20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. 21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'***

III. So, if the Spirit has been poured out on all people, there is no shortage of those who are called to do God's work, whether in a church office, or to prophesy and tell others about Jesus.

- A. Not everyone realizes God's power in their lives. But God is there.
 1. He gives His Spirit in baptism.
 2. He gives his Spirit by his Word.
 3. God gives faith, and love to all who will receive it.
- B. Everyone does not have the same gifts.
 1. Some may be leaders, others servants.
 2. Some may be wise, and others may be encouragers.
- C. But Jesus died for everyone, God loves everyone, **all have been called to sharing Jesus! (write)**

CONCLUSION - The commercials promise energy to tired people. But really. You have probably seen or heard that one product claims to be better than other 'energy drinks' because it provides '5-hour energy.'

But God has saved the world, and poured out His Spirit on all flesh. *"Is God's arm too short?"* His resources are there.