

Pentacost - a thought - 5/15/16

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,

Our hearts are sometimes locked against Jesus, but He is never locked out from us. He passes through our locked doors with a message for us.

Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you."
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you."

We are afraid of so many things in our life, but is not Jesus in our midst?

"Peace be with you."

He shows his hands and side. It is really Him. Jesus is with us. He gives us His peace and gives us a mission.

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

Jesus is sending us out in the world. with His peace in His presence. We are to work and love and give and live with peace in our hearts, assured that Jesus is with us to guide us and teach us and lead us and heal us. How does He do this?

And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit."

Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit - the Power of God - the Life of God - the Leading of God. Jesus breathes His own breath of life upon us and gives us the Spirit, the true breath of God. This is life. This is growth. This is power to overcome evil and our weakness. This is God intimately in our lives. What must we do Jesus?

"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained."

The healing we bring to others is the same healing that Jesus' death and resurrection brought us - forgiveness of sins. Yes we do great works and little works. Yes, we love our neighbors and our enemies. Yes, we give and empty ourselves. Ultimately we are moving around this world forgiving others and freeing them of the bondage of their sins. As we heal the world with forgiveness, we are forgiven too ("forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive") and the world is then capable of receiving the Holy Spirit. Filled with the life of the Spirit, we are able to give our life back to God through Jesus with peace in our heart. Thus we are able to speak the tongue of love. And speaking love with our life, the whole world will be able to understand and accept Who we give.

Happy Pentacost!