

Pentecost 2011 June 12, 2011

There are times in life that we feel lost and confused. A man went to his Doctor suffering with a headache. The Nurse, a very strong-willed person told him to go into the Examination Room and take off his clothes and to put on a gown. He told her about the headache, but she insisted. When he arrived at the room he found another guy there, sitting on the Examination Table in a hospital gown. Putting on the gown he said to the first guy, "I don't know what I'm doing here. I just have a headache.. .but that Nurse, Wow!" "You think you're bad," the first man answered, "I'm just here to read the meter."

Sad to say, Life can push us, force us, or gently coerce us into a place we just don't want to be. It's easy to feel lost and confused in life. The disciples of Jesus had seen Him leave them and ascend up into heaven. They were lost and confused when He was with them. . .what will happen now? Jesus had told them to go into Jerusalem and wait. Waiting for the unknown can be very disturbing. I was with a young couple this week who had been waiting for the birth of their first child. They might have felt a little lost and confused, but as we know, God Is Good. . .All The Time; and they are now filled with great joy and hope as God gave them a beautiful, big, healthy baby boy.

As the disciples sat together lost and confused, because God is Good.. .All The Time, God sent His Holy Spirit to them through wind and fire and their faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior became clear and strong and they were empowered to preach the Good News of Jesus with great power and hope and joy. They knew that Jesus died and rose for their salvation and they wanted others to know this too.

Many of you traveled many miles to get here today. Many of us have a GPS we use to help us find our way. Without the GPS we could really find ourselves lost and in trouble. Spiritually, the same is true. We need our spiritual GPS to find our way in life and to life eternal. GPS stands for God's Perfect Spirit. Led by God's Perfect Spirit found in the Bible and our Sacraments, we find direction and hope in this life and to life eternal through faith in Jesus.

This balloon I'm holding is a "dead balloon." It does nothing but lie here, empty, worthless, with no direction. However, when I fill it with air something happens. It grows in size and when I let it go, makes all kinds of sounds as it flies around the room. Without the Spirit of God, we're lost, confused, and dead too. As the Spirit of God fills my life through God's breath brought in His Word and Sacraments, I am ready to go to those in my life with the Good news of Jesus. I was lost but now I'm found. I want to make noise for Jesus.

There is a story of a little girl lost in New York. A policeman finds her and begins driving her around the City hoping that she'll recognize something familiar. Suddenly she looks up and sees a steeple with a cross on it. "That's my church," she cries out, "I can find my way home from here." Because God is Good... All The Time, we just need to see the cross too. Once we see the cross, in spite of trials, troubles, or strong-willed people, we will be led by God's Spirit and find our way not to just read the meter, but to find our heavenly home. Amen. .pastor matthews