Pentecost – 50d after Easter – remember coming of HS.

* Drama…previously…
  + **Acts 1:1** In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach **v2** until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. **v3** After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.
  + Doing? Spending last few weeks w disciples teaching – training – preparing them for Great Commission – all world - make disciples of all nations[[1]](#endnote-1).

2 problems: terrified & clueless.

* Terrified:
  + Peter denied even knowing J[[2]](#endnote-2) – fairness – the one who stuck around.
  + After J had risen from dead – hiding – fear of the Jewish leaders[[3]](#endnote-3)
  + Women -> tomb – filled with joy – but afraid[[4]](#endnote-4).
  + Even after spending 40d w J – just as he’s about to go back to H **Matthew 28:17** they worshipped him; but some doubted
    - Think how that sounded to the d – bunch of ordinary guys – and all Jewish. Make D of all nations
    - nearest neighbours – Samaritans - /associate[[5]](#endnote-5).
  + Picture: love him – do believe – also afraid – unsure – future?
* Clueless:
  + Good ex: **v4** On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. **v5** For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.’
    - J talked a lot about HS – wait – coming – nearly time. Everything promised to you – nearly.
    - **v6** Then they gathered round him and asked him, ‘Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?’
    - No! Them: when Sp comes – overthrow Romans – restore glory to Israel? Totally not got it. Missed what J mission all about.
    - He’s saviour of the world – reconcile world to God. Them: make Israel great again!
  + See how spiritually clueless men w/o Sp are. Primary purpose of disciples – gospels. All the way through – except for brief glimmers of brilliance – not a clue what’s going on round them.
    - Be fair, occasionally moments of brilliance: Peter: You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God[[6]](#endnote-6).
  + More often:
    - Parents – must be in F’s house: they did not understand what he was saying to them[[7]](#endnote-7).
    - P of sower: Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?[[8]](#endnote-8)
    - Talking about spiritual uncleanness – comes from inside: Are you so dull?[[9]](#endnote-9)
    - Feeding of 4k: Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened?[[10]](#endnote-10)
    - Kind of a running joke in gospels about the disciples and food: One time – **Matthew 16:5** When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. **v6** ‘Be careful,’ Jesus said to them. ‘Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.’ **v7** They discussed this among themselves and said, ‘It is because we didn’t bring any bread.’ **v8** Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, ‘You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? **v9** Do you still not understand? Don’t you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? **v10** Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? **v11** How is it you don’t understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.’
      * Few other occasions too: **John 4:31-34**
    - Just operating on different levels!
    - Predicts his death: But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it [[11]](#endnote-11)
  + This is what ppl w/o Sp are like – spiritual things. Might be wise, loving, kind, great business leader – when it comes to spiritual matters - /clue. /Understand – can’t.
    - Bible desc: “dead” – sp dead.[[12]](#endnote-12) Need HS to bring spiritual life. /get it own own.
    - Getting defibrillator - Like a person in cardiac arrest /put pads on – need someone else – external power – to bring life.
  + Know s/o like that? – love them - /get through to them – try to talk about spiritual things – brick wall – nothing. Pr for HS to bring them to life.
  + You this morning? /feel dead – but in truth - /get all this Xn stuff – seems weird – confusing. Xns – why so obsessed w Jesus? Need HS to bring you to life.
    - No better prayer today than to ask him to do that. Open spiritual eyes to see J and understand why Jesus is as good as all these ppl say!
* Terrified and very confused! Severely lacking all that they needed. But transformation coming!
  + **Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’
  + Power coming – transformational power – power to fulfil their mission.

**Acts 2:1-4**

* Crowds hear this violent blowing wind – hurricane - inside house – no wind – just sounds – crowd gathers. J followers spill out onto street – about 120 – declaring the wonders of God in every language imaginable.
  + Lots of languages here – imagine – suddenly – bunch of white Brits started speaking your language fluently – praising God.
* **v12** Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, ‘What does this mean?’
  + No ideas – no clue – some: drunk – like that explains it!?
* **v14** Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:
  + Look at change in P!
    - Listen: authority. ‘Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.
    - Quotes Joel – this is that – deep understanding – mind transformed
    - Accuses the crowd of murdering Jesus (v23)
    - Quotes Ps 16 – prophetic – shows that David was prophetically speaking about Jesus
    - Quotes Ps 110 – God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah. You killed the Messiah. Brave thing to do in front of a crowd.
    - Challenges them: repent – turn to God from your sins - be baptised – forgiven – warns them – pleads with them.
    - About 3000 saved that day + baptised!
* Wow – is this the same guy who 10 days earlier: Lord are you going to make Israel great again?
  + Total transformation! Utterly different person. Set him on fire!
  + Fear -> complete confidence
  + Clueless -> complete understanding
    - What’s happened? Received the power of the HS. Baptism of Sp - /underestimate how much need him.

Jesus himself needed the Sp.

* After these baptised – pray for them to be filled w Sp – Jesus was too – HS descended on him like a dove – very visible way - /normal – but necessary so everyone around – see where power from. J’s power from Sp.
* First public outing afterwards – **Luke 4:14** Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit…Sabbath day he went into the synagogue…He stood up to read [from Isaiah]

**v18** ‘The Spirit of the Lord is on me,

because he has anointed me

to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners

and recovery of sight for the blind,

to set the oppressed free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

* See? Sp is on J for a purpose: anointing is for a reason: to proclaim – 3x “proclaim good news – proclaim freedom – proclaim the Lord’s favour” – that was his anointing - calling – to proclaim – to preach. Needed Sp.

Now if you are truly believing in J today – trusting him as Saviour & Lord – you have HS living in you. Received bap of HS.

* Must have: brought you to life spiritually – otherwise still be spiritually dead[[13]](#endnote-13).
  + Better posn than disciples – even with their 3yrs w J – you have better understanding b/c you have HS.
  + Always need more of Him. Whatever your calling on earth – your mission – need Sp. Wise leader in business – patient and kind mum – honest & hardworking employee – do job w joy /office whinger. Need HS – just like J did. Just like D did.
* Balloon illustration:
  + Got HS? Sure. More available.
  + /leave completely.
  + Faith flat? More Sp!
* Always need more of him.
  + **Ephesians 5:18** Be filled with the Spirit.
  + **Colossians 1:9-11[[14]](#endnote-14)** We have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding
    - that’s what he’s praying for: knowledge – wisdom – understanding – great things to pray for. Where does it come from?
  + that the Spirit gives
    - want more k-w-u – need more HS. And if you get more HS – result?
  + so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way…

Want to grow as Xn: want more w-k-u – please him in every way – more of the S: need more of Him - anointing.

* So – how do you get more of him?
* As a gift.
  + **Acts 1:4** Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised
  + **Acts 2:38** Repent and be baptised...in the name of Jesus…and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
    - /buy Sp – Simon – tried that – Acts 8. “Heart is not right before God”.
    - /demand he comes – Sovereign – Lord - /commanded about. Like the wind – blows where it pleases[[15]](#endnote-15).
  + **Luke 11:13** If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’
    - /have to be a great dad to give good gifts to kids – low bar – easy stuff. How much more will your HF give HS to you if you ask.
* With holiness
  + Remember he is the Holy Spirit – repentance of sin – clean heart. Sorry for any conscious sin.
* With humility - need him.
  + Maybe this morning /convinced you need > pwr – so holding back.
    - Maybe: I’ll grow as a Xn – read more – listen more – learn more - try harder.
  + /Work. Think about J disciples:
    - With J 3 years – saw miracle after miracle – healings – walking on water – teaching – best BS leader earth has ever seen – but made no difference – scared & clueless w/o transforming power of Sp.
    - After baptisms – pray for 5 – filled w Sp – fulfil mission on earth - Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better[[16]](#endnote-16).
    - Invite others fwd too – want to be prayed for – receive more of HS – filled again - /dramatic - /fuss. Stand with these others.

1. Matthew 28:19 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Luke 22:60 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. John 20:19 [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Matthew 28:8 cf v10 [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. John 4:9 [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Matthew 16:16 [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Luke 2:50 [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. Mark 4:13 [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. Mark 7:18 [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. Mark 8:17 [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. Luke 9:45 [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. Ephesians 2:4-5 [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. Romans 8:9 [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
14. Ephesians 1:17 is also a good one [↑](#endnote-ref-14)
15. John 3:8 [↑](#endnote-ref-15)
16. Ephesians 1:17 [↑](#endnote-ref-16)