



## Life Group Sermon Study Notes

### “Pentecost: Plowed, Harvested, Leveled, and Sown”

Pastor Jim Laffoon – May 31, 2020

#### Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- How are you staying connected during this time of social distancing?
- Have you picked up any new hobbies or interests in the past few months?

#### Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org)

**Acts 2:16-18** <sup>16</sup>“But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup>“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; <sup>18</sup>even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.”

Pastor Laffoon shared a prophetic word with Bethel in the 2018 New Year’s Eve service, telling us our nation would be shaken like never before. There would be a ‘river of death’ and fear would come over many people. In seventeen months, it would be as if the whole country would tip and the people in it begin to slide. The sliding would continue for many months, but the hands of God would catch his people; they would slide into his kingdom. Months following, Pastor Laffoon received further pictures of what was to come as he cried out in prayer for America. He saw revival but there would be a cost. It has been seventeen months and we now see our country, and the world, overcome with fear. Covid-19 and its unprecedented effects on health, finances, and emotional strength is causing people to search for comfort and security. Misjustices and a host of situations and events are heightened with people grappling to position themselves with control over their well-being, looking to government and/or medicine for answers. They will find no help without God.

**Isaiah 28:24,28-29** <sup>24</sup>“Does he who plows for sowing plow continually? Does he continually open and harrow his ground? <sup>28</sup>...No, he does not thresh it forever...he does not crush it. <sup>29</sup>This also comes from the Lord of hosts; he is wonderful in counsel and excellent in wisdom.”

In the middle of fear and crisis, God is plowing and harrowing to prepare the world for a harvest. Every great revival in history was preceded with tribulation, events that plowed the field and created a hunger in people. The darkness of Covid-19 seems to have swallowed up the light, but God promises that it will not last.

**Acts 3:19-20** <sup>19</sup>“Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup>that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus.”

People are hungry for God. To see transformation, it is our responsibility as the body of Christ to unite and sow the seeds of the Gospel. Let us pay attention to what God is asking of us. What will it take to see our friends, neighbors, country touched by the Spirit of God?

**Ephesians 5:16-19** <sup>15</sup>“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart.”

The book of Acts tells us that after the day of Pentecost, Believers were filled again by the Holy Spirit. Will we stay filled with the Holy Spirit? Let’s spend our time purposefully, praying without ceasing, maintaining fellowship, and sharing the Gospel. God can use a crisis to prepare the hearts of people, but sowing is our responsibility.

- The first great revival was *Pentecost*, when 3,000 Jews came to Christ.
- In 1740, the *First Great Awakening* added 119,000 Methodists.
- The *Second Great Awakening* saw 3,000 conversions in 1801, four students starting the American foreign mission movement in 1806 and by 1811, one-third of Americans had attended a revival meeting.
- The *Prayer Meeting Revival* began in 1857 and added 2 million people in two years.
- The *Welsh Revival* brought more than 5 million to Christ.
- The *Asuza Street Revival* formed Pentecostalism.
- In 1980, there were 2 million Christians in China and exploded to 75 million by 2000 with the *Modern-Day Revival*.

Think about how exciting it is to have word of a new revival! We are thankful to those who have gone before us. Now it is our turn to carry the torch and hand to the next generation. Pray, read scripture, learn church history, and share the miraculous with others, stirring hearts and minds for the task at hand. **Here we GO!**

### **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose one of the points below and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.**

- Discuss biblical events where a nation was Plowed, Harvested, Leveled and Sown.
- What practices will you employ to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit?

### **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.**

- Thank Jesus for sharing his plan and purpose and allowing us to be a part of his mission.
- Pray that we have great passion for the task at hand and that it is contagious.
- Pray for a hedge of protection around church leaders and their families, as well as, our brothers and sisters in Christ around the globe.