

Mosaic Teaching Guide

Pentecost Sunday 2011

Teaching Series: *Spirit Intoxication*

Teaching One: *Excess*

Ezekiel 47.1-12

Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there, water was flowing from below the threshold of the temple towards the east (for the temple faced east); and the water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me round on the outside to the outer gate that faces towards the east; and the water was coming out on the south side. Going on eastwards with a cord in his hand, the man measured one thousand cubits, and then led me through the water; and it was ankle-deep. Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was knee-deep. Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was up to the waist. Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. He said to me, 'Mortal, have you seen this?' Then he led me back along the bank of the river. As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on one side and on the other. He said to me, 'This water flows towards the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. People will stand fishing beside the sea from En-gedi to En-eglaim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.'

Revelation 22.1-2

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

John 7.37-39

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Question for Everyone: Are you given to excess? Are you (1) a person who always practices moderation with very strict discipline or are you (10) the kind of person who figures if one is good, 20 must be better?

Divine Excess

“If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, “thank you” that would suffice” (Meister Eckhart). There is no better day to celebrate the excessive love of the Triune God than Pentecost. Does the phrase “divine excess” resonate with you? How might God be understood as excessive?

It’s Pentecost!

Such was the excess of their experience in Act 2 that the first response of the crowd was simply to pronounce them . . . *intoxicated*. But they’re not drunk. They are just the vessels of divine excess. . . . Pentecost is the convergence of all the subplots of the Christ story poured into a people.

What Kind of Christian are You?

But sometimes I notice that Christians seem to stay focused on one part of the Christ story. Which part of the Christ story are you most drawn to: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter or Pentecost? Does your answer reflect the way you tend to understand and practice your faith?

Ezekiel’s River

When Jesus stood in the Temple he was, most likely, thinking of the spirit-intoxicated prophet when he said, *‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’* Think about Jesus’ metaphorical language. Out of your heart flows rivers of living water. Does this phrase, in any way, describe the life you live?

Faithful Awareness

To experience the Spirit of God one doesn’t have to have some fantastic mystical experience. All one has to do is exercise a little faithful awareness . . . Jesus asserts that Ezekiel’s vision comes to fruition in us. We are the river. We are the means of healing in the world. Does your life have a healing effect in the world?

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, fill me with Your Spirit so that I might be a healing presence in your world.