

So today is Pentecost, and at the moment, the thought of 120 people gathering in one place is as far from our imagination, as tongues of fire resting on their heads, was for the disciples when they gathered to pray that morning.

But I want us to use our imaginations, I want us to wonder about those disciples as they gathered. What was in their hearts, what was in their imagination of what the future held, what did they think God wanted them to do?

Jesus had told them to wait, but what was it they were waiting for, did they have any idea what God's future looked like.

When they prayed "Thy kingdom come", what did they expect that to look like?

I want us to imagine what it was like for the followers who were not one of the twelve, for those on the edges of the 120 believers who we might imagine were there in that upper room. They knew that the twelve had been with Jesus from the beginning and knew more about him than most of them, But still they were part of this thing whether they were close to the twelve or not. They all prayed "thy Kingdom come."

What did they think Jesus had meant when he said you shall be clothed with power from on high, and you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you?

I don't think it needed the twelve to help them think that something would be different.. Jesus' words clearly imply something was going to change for them. The use of the word "power" has an active rather than passive feel to it. What did those phrases mean? The use of the words "from on high" and "comes upon you" give a sense of being a recipient rather than instigator. What did they think would happen?

I am sure that as they reflected on Jesus' words they did not expect it would unfold as Acts 2 tells us it did. Yet it was the rushing wind, the

tongues of fire on each individual, the explosive outburst telling of the wonders of God in languages as diverse as the crowd that heard them that made all the difference to them all. Some may focus on Peter and his sermon, but I want to focus on those individuals who spoke of the wonders of God so that Parthians, Medes and Elamites understood.

I want to remember the individuals who helped residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia , Pontus and Asia hear about the mighty deeds of God. I want to remember those disciples who spoke of God to those from Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs. The Spirit of God came upon them that morning.

The Spirit of God empowered them that morning. The Spirit of God made a difference to them that morning, as they shared what they knew about God and his dealings with humankind.

And so as we have tried to imagine what they anticipated, what they wondered, and what they experienced let's turn to us. As we remember that we pray as they did "thy Kingdom come", What do we think that means? May I suggest that it means the rule of God over our lives. It means being open to the Spirit of God to take us as we are and use us where we are. Is your imagination fired up as what the Spirit of God might come from on high to empower you to do, Is your imagination excited by what being clothed with power might be like in the service of God.

St John reports that Jesus' description of the coming of the Spirit was like rivers of living water flowing out from deep within us. Refreshing renewing water to those who need it. If that is what we thirst for, that is what Christ gives us in order that it might be given to others. Just like those disciples on the day of Pentecost they were thirsty for God, and he filled them and gave them a river to share with those in Jerusalem that morning

That is what "thy Kingdom come can look like" - a willingness to accept the rule of God as living water, and in the wonder of our refreshment to share what we know of the grace, mercy and love of God, revealed in the person

of Jesus, imparted to us by the Spirit and demonstrated by the life of the church whose birthday we celebrate to day.

Thy kingdom come means loving God with everything we have

Thy Kingdom come means loving our neighbours as much as we love ourselves.

Thy Kingdom come means reaching out to those in need.

Thy kingdom come means walking the extra mile

Thy kingdom come means forgiving those around us from our heart and not just in words

Thy kingdom come means being ready to give an account of our faith to those around us when it is convenient and when it is not

Thy Kingdom come means seeing the hand of God working in ways we do not expect and may find hard to understand.

Thy kingdom come means being open to God to use us in whatever way He chooses, and whenever he chooses.

Is that the future you imagined it might mean?

Is that what you imagined God might want from you

Is that sort of picture you have in your heart?

For first those disciples the day began with gathering for prayer and ended up changing the world.

We may not be able to gather for prayer, but the God who moved through them is able to move through us as we pray Thy kingdom come.

Amen

We may feel that we cannot change the world, but I suspect they didn't realise they were changing it, they just spoke out for God, and He did the rest.

May we as, we pray thy Kingdom come, simply act and speak out for God and let Him do the rest. It is his Kingdom after all. Amen