

“Materialization” Sermon for May 20 2018, Pentecost Acts 2:14-21, John 16:7-15

15 “Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.” 16 But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God (Ruth 1:15-16).

When a thing comes into perceptible existence we call that “materialization.” When it materializes, it becomes actual or real.

For thousands of years the descendants of Abraham, which later formed Haranites (Abram’s adopted city-state), Midianites (a son of Abraham), Edomites (Esau), Moabites and Ammonites (Lot), Hebrews, Israelites (Jacob), Jews (David-Solomon-Rehoboam) and Samaritans (Saul-Jeroboam) all anticipated the fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham. The Prophet Joel, which Peter quoted on Pentecost, articulated the specifics of that promise:

17 “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.... I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy....21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (Joel 2:28ff).”

Jesus, exercising his prophetic gift as the Christ, also articulated specifics regarding the fulfillment of the promise of Abraham.

The Spirit of truth...will guide you into all the truth.... He will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because ... from me ... he will receive what he will make known to you.

More than a spiritual awakening, even though it comes through the agency of the Spirit of God, it is a spiritual confluence. It is our being at-one with Christ, where his death and resurrection are actualized in us. That is why some experienced the outpouring upon the disciples as men and women, drunk with wine and speaking gibberish. But others who were spiritually in sync, desiring a different world, a different set of values and relationships, heard the sound of a rushing wind. They heard the metaphorical sound of creation-the ruach of God. Their awakened spiritual being could hear and see what others could not, signs of a new world. They

could hear God speaking words in their own dialect, directly overriding their own culture and ethnicity.

Ruth was prepared for a new realm. She declared to Naomi, that her loyalty was no longer to the Moabite people. Her goals and values were no longer those of the people of her origin. Even though she was culturally and ethnically a Moabite, she died to all that. It was nailed to the cross with all that is dead, the result of fear, greed, insecurity and ignorance.

Where you go I will go, where you stay I will stay. Your people shall be my people. Your God my God.

This is the declaration of all who would receive power for living God's life on the day of Pentecost. If we are to materialize God's life in ourselves and in the world, Ruth's declaration must be our own.

She said to Naomi, "Where you go I will go, where you stay I will stay. Your people shall be my people. Your God my God."

Only then will we, materialize God's kingdom, rediscovering our whole true creative selves, our God-connection, the source of all life, through the life of Christ, the divine anthropomorphic presence of that which name call "God."

Immediately, 3000, then 5000, then thousands more, were awakened at Peter's preaching. That awakening, which was experienced on the Day of Pentecost, touched Jews, Samaritans, Ethiopians, Medians, Persians, Assyrians, the far reaches of the Mali Empire, Ethiopia, India, Europe and Asia, and the known world. Through our committed faith, we are awakened to live an alternative lifestyle and to demonstrate that lifestyle to the world. We can materialize sharing. We can materialize fairness. We can materialize altruism. We can materialize peace. We can materialize joy. We can materialize acceptance and forgiveness. We can materialize goodness. We can take the words, "Thy kingdom

come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven," and make them a reality. The message of Pentecost is that rather than speaking words, writing words, we now have the power **to live words**, in accordance with our faith. Amen.