

THE BIG IDEA: The Holy Spirit unleashes the unable to do the unthinkable.

The Take-Off

You've already noticed that this morning is a little different

You walked in and saw right away that we've replaced rows of chairs with circles of chairs around tables

Now you're realizing that I'm talking before we've even sung one line of one song, and so you're "change alert" is peaking pretty high right now, so let me try to put you at ease right away.

Today is Pentecost Sunday, the day in church history when the church began. It's when God unleashed the unable to do the unthinkable.

Let's talk through that...

1. **The Holy Spirit unleashes...**

- a. Acts 1:8
- b. The difference between the church before Pentecost and the church after Pentecost is the difference between a dog on a leash and a dog off a leash
- c. Unleashed means there are no limits. It means that we can go unhindered.
- d. The only problem with that is, well, us.
- e. The Holy Spirit is more than able (Romans 8:11 and Ephesians 1:19-20), but we tend to be...

2. **...the unable...**

- a. Peter denied Jesus. Thomas doubted Jesus. All but one disciple deserted Jesus!
- b. Paul said he wasn't adequate (2 Corinthians 2:16)
- c. If you feel a bit nervous, you're in good company
- d. I was reminded this past week of how unable I am
 - Wendy called me outside to do battle with a snake
 - Problem was that there was a second snake hiding in the bush that my foot was closest to
 - I was a mess - freaking out and jumping up onto the step as fast as I could
 - There I was - the mighty man of power sent out to change the world!
- e. So if you feel unable to go and make disciples, welcome to the club.
- f. As a whole, I think it's safe to say that we are unable.
- g. But the beauty of Pentecost is that God transformed the unable with His power, and then unleashed them...

3. **...to do the unthinkable.**

- a. Change the world by going and showing the love of Jesus.
- b. It's what Jesus sent the original disciples - and now, us - to do
- c. Matthew 28:19-20
- d. Everything we know today about Jesus and the church came from this band of unable brothers being unleashed
- e. Matthew 28:17 tells us that even as Jesus sent them, some of them were doubting.
- f. What changed? **The power of the Holy Spirit unleashed the unable to do the unthinkable.**

The Landing

Just before we start to worship and take the time to allow the power of the Holy Spirit to unleash us, let me share one more reason why what we're about to do is so critical.

Jesus told us in Matthew 5:14 that we are the light of the world.

When is light useless? Well, from this passage we know light is useless if it's hidden, right? But last night I realized another time it's useless.

This past week, a deer hit my car and left me with some pretty good dents and a headlight that's pointed wrong.

Last night as I was driving home late, I noticed that my car was doing a great job lighting the trees instead of the road.

Light is useless if it isn't shining in the right places.

Churches are so good at getting our lights together and lighting up church buildings, but Jesus told us to let our light shine BEFORE men.

That's what we'll do this morning after we've finished worship. We're going out - unleaded - to shine before men.

Let's pray. Let's worship. Let's prepare our hearts.