

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Dead Guy Summer // Basil

Pastor Marcus

May 28, 2023

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is your favorite summer activity?

Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Outline:

- I. Intro
 - A. We are doing a sermon series on the saints because, as Martin Gurri says, we are living in an era of crisis of authority: where we don't know what is true and who has authority. Therefore, we need to examine the lives of the saints and learn to love what they love.
 - B. "Reason leads to understanding and knowledge. But reason is not entirely absent from authority, for we have to consider whom we are to trust." -Augustine
Q: *Where do you most find yourself experiencing a crisis of authority?*
- II. The Spirit Empowers (v. 1-11)
 - A. We read in Acts that the Spirit descends on the disciples and there's a shift: they begin speaking in other languages. This gift is given to declare the mighty works of God.
 - B. The Holy Spirit gives us gifts so that we can serve others, not as a point of pride in ourselves. Basil lived the same way by founding the Basiliad, a monastic community devoted to the formation of Christian virtue that later became the first hospital through its service to the sick.
Q: *How does the Spirit empower you in your personal or professional life?*
- III. The Spirit Points to Jesus
 - A. "The same Spirit that was present at Pentecost pointing men and women to Jesus is present in and through the Word, pointing you to Jesus." - Pastor Marcus
 - B. Just like the Spirit used the disciples on Pentecost, just like the Spirit used Basil's teaching & life, the Spirit who has joined you to Jesus has made you a part of the body that lives to make him known.
Q: *How has the Spirit pointed you to Jesus, or used you to point to Jesus?*

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How do we avoid radical, unhelpful skepticism during a crisis of authority?
- 2) How can we use our gifts from the Spirit to serve others appropriately?
- 3) How do we help others refine their gifts so that they can serve others?
- 4) How can we tell when the Spirit is using us?

Suggestion for further study:

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 Q: How do these verses shed light on how the Spirit gives us gifts and what we should use them for?
- Joel 2:28-32 Q: How do these verses provide further context for the miracle at Pentecost?

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, you have poured your Spirit into us, and you have promised that our faith joins us to your son Jesus. We thank you that you empower us to live the lives you have called us to through giving us your Spirit. Continue to pour out your Spirit onto us and to strengthen our faith, so that we can be used to make Jesus known. Amen.