

From the Open Tomb to the Upper Room

The Mystery of the Upper Room

Acts 1:12-26

INTRODUCTION

We've arrived at week 6 – in our seven-week journey from Resurrection to Pentecost ... Let me remind you – this is more than just another sermon series ... This is not just a timeline of biblical events ... This has been a sacred pilgrimage – a spiritual ascent – an invitation into mysteries too deep for intellect – and too weighty for the casual believer.

I pray that what we have been walking through – has not merely informed your mind – but has ignited your spirit ... These are not just moments in Scripture – but they are portals into a deep spiritual reality ... Between the Resurrection and Pentecost – we have discovered a sequence of divine movements – each step forming Christ in us – each moment pressing us into deeper union.

Next Sunday is Pentecost ... The sound is forming ... The wind is coming ... The fire is preparing to descend ... But let me drop this in your spirit now – before the event – there must be a prepared vessel ... Before the wind blows and the fire falls – a container must be formed to carry it ... This is the hidden wisdom of the Upper Room.

Today, we are stepping into that mystery ... For ten days, the disciples waited ... But they did not wait passively ... While heaven prepared to pour, God was forming something on earth – a vessel in unity, - - in expectancy, - - in alignment - - in structure ... And in those ten days, much took place ... They prayed ... They addressed the betrayal of Judas ... They discerned the need for apostolic order ... They cast lots ... They sought the mind of the Spirit.

These were not random events – but were part of the forming ... They reveal the anatomy of the vessel ... And today, we're going to explore – not only what happened in that Upper Room –

but what must happen within each of us ... Because today – the Spirit wants to form – in each of us – a suitable vessel to receive what He is about to release.

TRANSITION

So, this morning – I want us to press into just one dimension of these Upper Room moments ... One that is deeply personal – and intensely spiritual ... Today isn't about the collective – it is about you ... It's not about the crowd – it's about your inner altar ... The question is – will you allow yourself to be formed into a vessel? ... A vessel uniquely shaped by the Potter's hands ... Formed in secret – forged in the waiting ... Prepared to carry His wind and His fire ... A vessel not just filled – but formed ... Formed by His Spirit – to unveil your true identity ... So that you can impact those you are divinely called to ... Catch this – this formation isn't cosmetic ... It is an awakening to who you really are ... It aligns you with the divine assignment you were born to carry out.

This Formation Begins with the Breath

We see it in John 20:22 – "And when He had said this – He breathed on them and said to them – 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"

This moment wasn't symbolic – it was supernatural ... It was the first inhale which birthed the new creation ... This is where the disciples became filled with His Spirit before Pentecost – not with fire – but with breath ... Jesus, the resurrected Christ – breathed His Spirit into them – and in that holy breath – the Spirit entered ... They were quickened – awakened – born from above ... This was their genesis moment – the moment the Holy Spirit indwelt them.

If you are born again – then you, too – have received that breath ... You are not waiting to get the His Spirit – you already have Him ... He lives in you – He breathes through you ... You have been filled – you are alive in Christ – you are a new creation – a Kainos being.

But religion – religion tells us this is the end of the story ... "You're saved – you're sealed – just coast along till heaven." ... They'll say – "Go to church now and then – drop something in the

plate – read your Bible once in a while – say a little prayer – and you’re all set.” ... It is unfortunate – but this is the state of the American church ... Saved – maybe ... Sanctified – hardly ... Holy – heck no.

But – there are those – who have a deep stirring within – a holy ache that will not be silenced – a burning in their spirit that cries out, “There must be more” ... They are not satisfied with polished programs and cute sermonettes ... They are weary of fellowships that feel more like social clubs than sacred encounters ... They sit in services – yet sense no substance ... They show up on holidays, only to search in vain for the fragrance of the Risen Lord ... Their spirit groans – not for noise – but for nearness – not for hype – but for Him.

Let me share with you a divine truth ... Something I learned over the years as I struggled with this “holy discontentment” – I just referred to ... During those times I felt dry and empty ... I felt alone and out of place ... But what I have come to learn is this ... It was in those times that I was being shaped ... I was being hollowed out – stretched – enlarged – because I was being prepared to receive the more.

James 4:5 New Living Translation

"Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? ... They say that God is passionate that the Spirit He has placed within us - should be faithful to Him."

Catch this - - - The indwelling Spirit is passionate – jealous – and longs for our spirit to awaken to His fullness ... Not just to be filled – but to be formed – stretched – and enlarged ... This “holy discontentment” is a clear sign of the Spirit desiring to expand our spiritual consciousness ... Don’t run from it – but press into it

This Waiting is for the Forming of the Vessel

Acts 1:4, 12–14 New Living Translation

Once when He was eating with them – He commanded them – “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift He promised – as I told you before.”

12 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile ... 13 When they arrived – they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying ... Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the zealot), and Judas (son of James) ... 14 They all met together – and were constantly united in prayer – along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.

What I find so intriguing from this text is this ... Look at verse 14 – which tells us that they “were constantly united in prayer” ... What is interesting – Jesus never told them to pray – in order to receive the promise ... Jesus simply told them to wait in Jerusalem – until it has been sent (verse 4) ... That is an interesting paradigm shift from today’s churches methodology ... What do I mean? ... Today, people are taught to pray for the Promise of the Father ... People are told to tarry and weep at the altar as if God is waiting for just the right time to send them the promise ... But Jesus didn’t say, “Pray until the Father is ready to send it – He said, “Wait until you receive it.”

And yet – what did they do? ... They prayed – and kept on praying ... Why? ... I’m not going to get into the topic of prayer now – other than to say this ... Once again – religion has taught us a perverted perspective of prayer ... What we call prayer today – would be a foreign activity for the apostles ... So, why did they pray? ... They didn’t pray out of desperation or begging the Father for the promise ... They prayed – understanding the principle that prayer is divinely aligning your soul to receive from the Spirit ... Prayer wasn’t a religious activity – but a mystical participation – that aligns their inner man – to receive the divine promise.

Prayer is the Posture of a Kainos Being

Prayer reveals your spiritual – internal posture ... This posture is one of – submission – humility – and identity ... It is the Kainos posture of one who knows – “I carry His breath – and I was made for His wind and fire” ... Prayer is not begging – it is beholding ... It is not striving – it is stretching ... In prayer – you make space for the Spirit to move ... You yield your inner

being in humility ... You open the chambers of your heart – and the breath within you begins to resonate with the promise that is coming upon you.

Waiting Becomes the Womb Where the Promise is Incubated

This kind of waiting isn't passive – it is prophetic – it is pressing ... It is that divine unrest ... That sacred pressure ... That holy ache ... You can't always explain it – but you feel it ... You know something's coming – something bigger than you – and it's forming you to receive it ... This is where your spirit begins to groan – you fast – you pray – you sit in the silence ... Not out of duty – but out of divine agitation ... Something deep is moving – and you can't go back to how it was ... You are becoming the upper room.

Let me boldly make a declaration this morning ... You are being formed for fullness ... You are the wineskin – and the Spirit is softening you – stretching you – so He can pour in the new wine of the Father's promise ... The Spirit is not content to merely indwell – He desires to come upon ... But He will not clothe a vessel that refuses to be shaped ... So – this is your moment of decision ... This is your moment – to yield to His forming – to wait with purpose – to posture yourself in prayer – and to become the vessel – that can carry the wind – and contain the fire.

Structure and Order Before Outpouring Acts 1:15–26

Peter stood up in the midst of them – and said, “It is necessary to fill the vacant place” ... Let me say it plainly – this wasn't politics – this was preparation ... This wasn't about replacing Judas – it was about restoring wholeness – structure and order.

Before the Spirit could fall – the house had to be set back into order – because God never pours out upon what is dysfunctional ... He brings alignment – before He brings abundance ... He brings structure before He releases Spirit ... What Peter understood – what the early apostles discerned – was this ... Outpouring requires order ... Outpouring requires foundation ... Outpouring requires apostolic alignment.

Why is this important to understand? ... Because there are movements – streams in Christianity that do not believe structure and order are necessary ... They feel the five-fold ministry is outdated and God is now doing a new thing ... God was doing a completely “new thing” in the upper room – yet the apostles understood the importance of what Jesus set up Himself – structure and order ... I won’t go into it now – other than to say – the 12 apostles and the 3 inner circle apostles were not just random numbers.

There is a difference between His wind that moves you – and His wind that grounds you in Presence ... God is not afraid of glory and government ... He is not choosing between Spirit or structure ... He is establishing both – in you ... You can walk in mystery and deep, divine revelation – and be rooted – and grounded in order and structure ... You can flow in the glory – and be grounded in foundation ... This is about your soul being brought into order – your house – your heart – your hidden places ... The upper room was not just a location – it was a pattern ... Before power came – the vacant seat needed to be filled.

So, let me ask you – Is there a vacancy in you? ... Is your inner being fragmented ... Is your identity partially seated? ... Are there foundations you’ve neglected – while chasing the fire? ... Because God is not going to pour new wine into a fractured vessel.

So let me encourage you to ... Ask Him to fill every vacant place – in your heart ... To re-establish the seat of your identity ... To bring your house into divine order ... So that when the wind blows – and the fire falls – you are ready – you are whole – you are in alignment and structured for the more.

TAKE AWAY

YOU ARE BECOMING THE UPPER ROOM

You are not just Spirit-filled – you are being Spirit-formed ... You are the upper room ... You are the womb of the Promise ... You are the vessel prepared for fire ... This is not just about what’s coming to you ... It’s about what’s being formed within you.

Let Him stretch you ... Let Him hollow out the places that need to carry more ... Let Him rearrange the furniture within your house ... Let Him fill the vacant places – because next week – the wind is going to blow – and the fire is going to fall.

But the question isn't just – Will it come? ... The question is – will there be room? ... Will there be space in you – for the Spirit to rest – to clothe you – to commission you – to flow through you in power? ... Catch this - this is your formation week ... This is your alignment moment ... This is where you stop waiting in the upper room – and you become the room ... This is where you get serious about spiritual renovation ... Stop waiting for Pentecost ... Become a vessel – fit for the Masters use – where the wind and fire – may clothe you – for His glory and honor.

CLOSING PRAYER

Spirit of the Living God – I ask that You would breathe upon us – a fresh and anew ... We hear Your sound – we sense Your wind – we feel Your fire ... Father – by Your Spirit – will You form us? ... Will You hollow us out? ... Will You stretch us – until we become a vessel that is capable to carry Your glory – that the world may behold – You are God in us ... Today – we yield to Your brooding presence ... We open ourselves to the breath of Your wind ... We allow our spirit to become the womb for Your coming fire ... Lord – break every barrier – let every idol be destroyed – let every corner within our soul be swept clean by Your breath – and set in order ... You are coming not just to indwell – but to clothe us with divine power ... Let us become the Upper Room ... Let us carry the weight of Your Spirit ... Let us burn with Your holy fire – until the world sees Jesus ... In the mighty name of the Risen King – Yeshua ... Amen and amen.