

JESUS LIGHTS OUR WAY TO HEAVEN

At that time, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, “If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink.” He wanted to talk to people who were thirsty, not for water, but for lessons in how to please God.

Jesus also promised that those who believe in Him would receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us stay on the path to heaven.

The important people who heard this knew what he meant. They said to one another, “Can he be the one we have been waiting for, our new king--the Messiah?”

A big argument began with people who believed Jesus was the messiah, and others who did not. Again Jesus spoke loudly, saying, “I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” Jesus said this because he knew that his lessons are for all the world. His lessons are like light on the path to God.

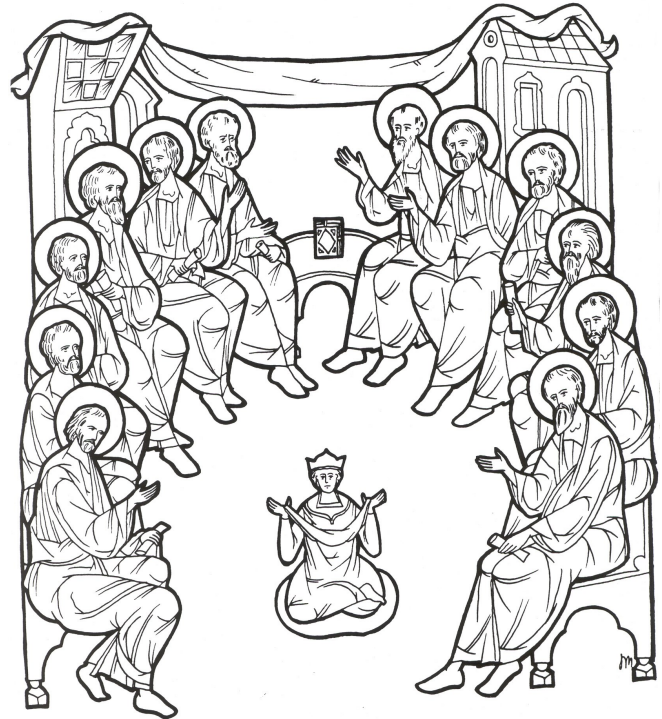
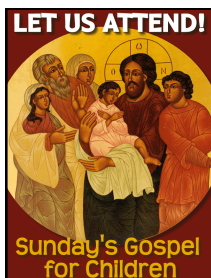


Image courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What was the first thing Jesus said? It begins, “If any one”
2. Jesus wanted to teach lessons on how to please _____. (fill in the blank)
3. Some people thought Jesus was the new king. They were waiting for a new king who would be like King David.
4. What did Jesus say at the end? It begins, “I am the”
5. Jesus’ lessons are like light on a path. Where does the path go?
6. We hear Jesus’ lessons when the Gospel is read. We stand and listen carefully.



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Pre-12



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JESUS LIGHTS OUR WAY TO HEAVEN

On the last day of a special Jewish feast, our Lord Jesus Christ stood up and said, "If anyone is thirsty, he should come to me and drink. Rivers of living water will go out from whoever believes in Me." He was talking about the Holy Spirit whom He was going to send to help His followers after He went back to Heaven.

Some people who heard Jesus speak said, "He is really a prophet." Some said, "He is the Christ!" Others said, "Will the Christ come from Galilee? Won't the Christ be a descendant of King David and come from Bethlehem, where David was?" So the people did not agree with each other. Some even wanted to arrest Jesus, but no one did.

The officers went back to the chief priest and Pharisees. They said to the officers, "Why didn't you bring Jesus?"

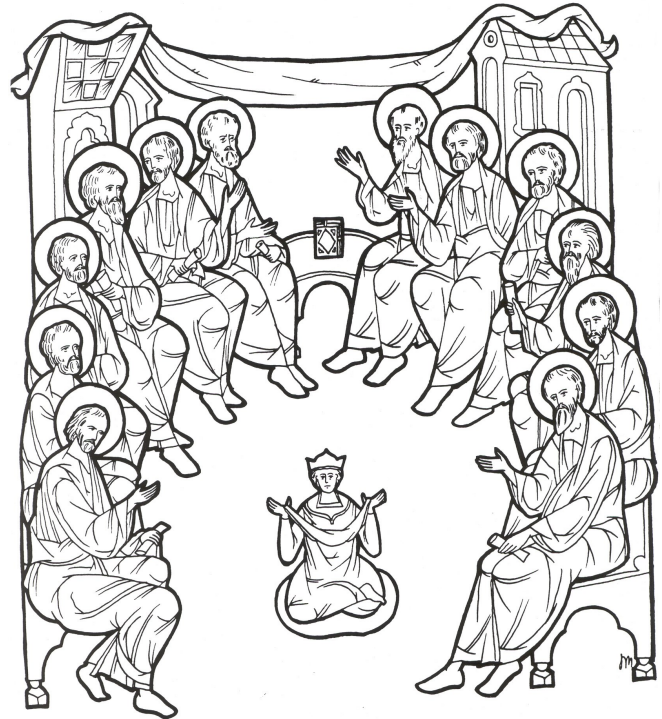
The officers said, "We never heard anyone talk like He does!"

The Pharisees answered, "Has He led you astray, too? We who know the laws don't believe in Him. This crowd doesn't know the laws, so they believe in Him."

Nicodemus, one of them who had gone to Jesus before, asked, "Does our law judge a man without even learning what he does?"

The other Pharisees told Nicodemus to search through the prophecies because the prophecies did not say that a prophet would come from Galilee.

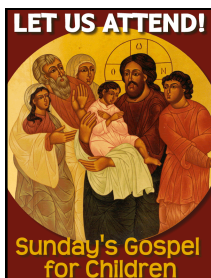
Then Jesus Himself spoke to them. He said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Have you ever been really thirsty? How did you feel when you got a drink? Jesus said that if we are thirsty, we should come to Him and drink. He was not talking about being thirsty for water, but about being thirsty for the things of God. He can help us to learn about and be closer to God.
2. What did Jesus say will go from those who believe in Him?
3. After Jesus talked, why did the people disagree with each other?
4. Were the Pharisees happy that the officers did not bring Jesus to them? How do you know?
5. Jesus said that He is the Light of the world. What does He say that people who follow him have?



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THE LIGHT THAT LEADS US TO HEAVEN

At that time of the feast Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If anyone thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

The officers then went back to the chief priest and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees be-

lieved in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee."

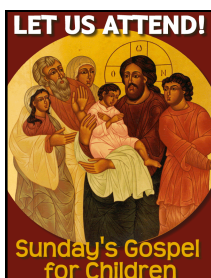
Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What or who were those who believed in Jesus going to receive?
2. What did the people who heard Jesus disagree about?
3. What did the officers in the gospel passage say to the chief priests and Pharisees who wanted to know why the officers didn't bring Jesus to them?
4. What does Jesus tell them that He is?
5. Jesus says His followers will not walk in darkness. How does Jesus light your life as you follow Him?



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THE LIGHT THAT LEADS US TO HEAVEN

Characters: Narrator, Jesus, People (three groups), Pharisees, Officers, Nicodemus

Narrator: At that last day of the feast, Jesus stood up and proclaimed,

Jesus: If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.'

Narrator: Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
When they heard these words, some of the people said,

People: This is really the prophet.

Narrator: Others said,

People: This is the Christ.

Narrator: But some said,

People: Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?

Narrator: So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

The officers then went back to the chief priest and Pharisees, who said to them,

Pharisees: Why did you not bring him?

Narrator: The officers answered,

Officers: No man ever spoke like this man!

Narrator: The Pharisees answered them,

Pharisees: Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed.

Narrator: Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them,

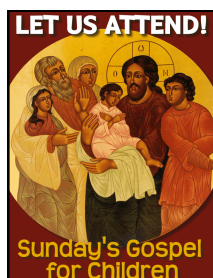
Nicodemus: Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?

Narrator: They replied,

Pharisees: Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee.

Narrator: Again Jesus spoke to them, saying,

Jesus: I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.



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NO ONE EVER SPOKE LIKE THIS MAN

At that time of the feast

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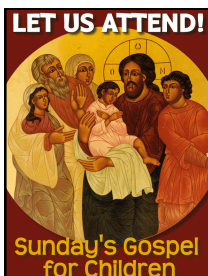
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them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee."

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does a person need to do in order to receive the Holy Spirit according to this gospel?
2. What do we celebrate on Pentecost?
3. Why do you think we read this gospel on Pentecost?
4. What did the apostles need to believe before they received the Holy Spirit?
5. What does a new member of our church have to do before he or she is baptized, is chrismated and receives the gift of the Holy Spirit?
6. What do you think it means to have the gift of the Holy Spirit?



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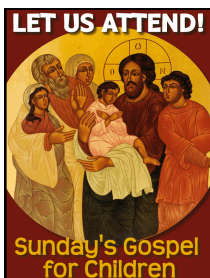
Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does Jesus tell us to do if we are thirsty?
2. If we believe in him what do we get to do?
3. What will happen to a believer's heart?
4. Who is living water?
5. What kind of thirst is Jesus talking about in this gospel?
6. What does it mean to drink or the holy spirit?
7. How does this satisfy our thirst?



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