

SERMON NOTES: MAY 19TH
SCRIPTURE READINGS: LUKE 24: 44-49, ACTS: 2:1-13

INSIDE/OUTSIDE THE UPPER ROOM...inside the Disciples' room, it was gloom and doom. After 40 days of waiting, the walls were **CLOSING IN** around them. They felt powerless, with no control over the future. Serving Jesus had been the thrill of their lives, but something was missing. Outside their room, it was a **different world**: the **LAUGHTER/JOY** of one **BIG PARTY**, half a million Jewish pilgrims drawn to the Pentecost Feast. What a contrast of moods and yet the scene is about to be turned upside down. The Disciples will take their party to the streets.

GOD'S SURPRISING WAYS: if one word captures the mood of Pentecost, it is **SURPRISE**. How, when, and where has God surprised you? Are we even open to surprises, or do we put God in a box? The Holy Spirit strikes many people as spooky. Or are we just scared of change, and how our lives might get affected if God made a surprise call?

STUCK IN AN UPPER ROOM: the **JESUS MOVEMENT** was born in an **UPPER ROOM**, but they didn't **GET STUCK THERE**. The Spirit catapulted them outside and straight into the streets. They didn't hit the streets to do **MARKETING** or to start a **BUSINESS**. They had work to do. God was on the move. Like them, we must leave Church to carry out God's mission and not to get stuck in our **UPPER ROOMS** or **COMFORT ZONES**.

THE JESUS MOVEMENT...Jesus had been raised from death, but till now no one knew how to talk about it. They had something to say, something worth hearing. What made them so effective: their **DEEP LOVE** and **CONTAGIOUS JOY**. From now on, the New Testament will no longer call them Disciples but Apostles. The word "apostle" means "those who are sent", a fitting phrase not only for them but for us. You feel **WASHED UP/ SPENT** but Jesus says "YOU ARE SENT" We are a part of what God is doing in the world. God wants to **CONTINUE IN US** what he started in them. God wants us to show up for him every day, not just to church on Sunday. God wants us to serve and not to be content just to **BE SERVED**.

OPEN TO THE SPIRIT...God moves in surprising/unexpected ways, but we want God to work on our schedule, according to our plans, and to meet our needs. If God can't **WORK THROUGH US**, he'll work **AROUND US**.