

Love of the immigrant: The Season of Pentecost

Sermon ideas

Revelation 5:1-10 and Pentecost; The Book of Ruth and Pentecost

SERMON PREPARATION

Revelation 5:1-10 and Pentecost*

1. What does Pentecost mean?
2. What connection do you see between Pentecost in Acts 2 and the heavenly vision of Rev. 5?
3. In the first four verses (Rev. 5:1-4), you see lament and a sense of hopelessness apart from Jesus' intervention. What parallels exist between these themes and what immigrants face?
4. The imagery and language used to describe Jesus in vv. 5-6, the one who is both Lion and Lamb, communicate both strength and weakness. Jesus is a triumphant lion and a slaughtered lamb. How might both of these images/themes minister to and offer hope to immigrants?
5. What connection do you see between serving immigrants and the heavenly vision of Rev. 5?
6. How can you reach immigrants in love and be blessed as a church?

The Book of Ruth and Pentecost**

1. What does Pentecost mean?
2. What is Shavout?
3. Why is Ruth read on Shavout?
4. Where is Pentecost in the book of Ruth?
5. Read the book of Ruth. Notice the emphasis on harvest.
6. How is Ruth's life an example of Pentecost?
7. What are some of the right and wrong ways immigrants were treated?
8. How can we reach immigrants in love and be blessed as a church?

POSSIBLE SERMON OUTLINE

Revelation 5:1-10 and Pentecost*

1. vv. 1-4: We experience lament and loss apart from Jesus' dramatic intervention.
2. vv. 6-8: Jesus is the Lion and the Lamb who intervenes on our behalf.
3. Jesus shows us he's worthy of our worship and our lives in the following three ways:
 - a. Because he opens doors of access through his blood- 9a – apply: immigrant focus.
 - b. Because he breaks down barriers of separation- 9b – apply: immigrant focus.
 - c. Because he promises to build his church- 10. – apply: immigrant focus.
4. Charge: "Sing a new song!" - v. 9a.

The Book of Ruth and Pentecost**

1. Provide the historical context surrounding hatred of immigrants.
2. Explain how Naomi makes a disciple of Ruth.
3. Describe the ill treatment of Ruth, the immigrant, at the hands of Jews.
4. Share Boaz's reaction and how he sees past Ruth's status as an alien in his land.
5. Rejoice that Ruth becomes a historical blessing to the nation and grandmother of King David.

SERMON APPLICATION:

Revelation 5:1-10 and Pentecost*

1. Lament means entering into the loss, sorrow, and mourning. Help people see the gravity of hopelessness apart from Christ in vv. 1-4.
2. The Christ who opens doors of access for us calls us to open doors of access for others.
3. The Christ who breaks down vertical barriers calls us to break down barriers with others.
4. Jesus purchases people from "every tribe and language and people and nation," the same language found in Acts 2. He doesn't save just insiders, wealthy people, or privileged people. He saves all who come in faith. Show connection between vision of Rev. 5 and immigrants.
5. The prayer "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven," is another way of saying, "Make what's happening in heaven happen here on earth."

The Book of Ruth and Pentecost**

1. Don't get caught up in the historical/political context of the day, see the individual, not the "immigrant."
2. What lessons can we derive from Naomi and Boaz in their relationship to Ruth?
3. Immigrants can be a blessing/harvest to the church.
4. Give a direct challenge: Invite an immigrant to supper, ask them to tell their story and ask if you can pray for them. If possible, provide materials for continued examination of the gospel.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Read up on the EFCA's ministry to immigrants: www.immigranthope.org
2. Learn more about which immigrants live in your town, city, and county. What nations are represented where you live and why?
3. Invite an immigrant into your home for dinner and ask them to tell you about their country.
 - a. Give them a copy of the Jesus Film in their language.
4. Pray for them.

*Prepared by Dr. Jared E. Alcántara, assistant professor of Homiletics at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois. All proprietary rights released with the hope that it will stimulate "Love of the Immigrant – The Season of Pentecost"

**Prepared by Dr. Alejandro Mandes, director of the All People Initiative and Immigrant Mission of the EFCA. All proprietary rights released with the hope that it will stimulate "Love of the Immigrant – The Season of Pentecost"