

still waters

home church studies

Psalm 68.1-10, 32-35 [Worship]

1 Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him. 2 As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God. 3 But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy. 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—his name is the LORD—be exultant before him. 5 Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. 6 God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land. 7 O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, 8 the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel. 9 Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished; 10 your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

32 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord, 33 O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice. 34 Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; and whose power is in the skies. 35 Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

Power from the Holy Spirit involved taking the resurrection to the streets. Before the Pentecost experience, the disciples were in the upper room. After, they were in the streets. The Spirit of God was breathing through them and moved them. Acts 1:8 describes an ever-widening circle. The gospel was to spread from the upper room to the streets of Jerusalem, into Judea and Samaria, and finally to the whole world.

The ministry of Jesus was clearly not private, confined to households or even temples. It was in the streets, on the hillsides, in the marketplaces, and all public places where

people lived, moved, and had their being. For the most part, Jesus' public ministry was to the crowds and the multitudes of the society—the poor, the diseased and afflicted, tax collectors, and sinners.

We are called to come out from behind our stain-glassed walls and dwell where mothers are struggling, children are hungry, and fathers are jobless. As long as innocent children continue to die in tenement fires; as long as families have to live in winter without heat, hot water, and food; as long as people are forced to live in poverty, the gospel must be heard in judgment against the inhumanity of society.

To be alive to the Spirit is to experience personal and public freedom.

Reflection Questions: *How are you going public with your faith commitments? What streets are in need of your witness?*

[The Scripture]

Acts 1.6-14

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." 12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. 13 When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

