



Walk in Love

It Only Takes A Spark: A Pentecost Reflection



Some time ago, I incorporated a fashion show into a sermon titled who are you wearing. The congregation had great fun participating in this impromptu opportunity to show off “who” they were wearing or to walk down the red carpet in “what to wear” and “what not to wear”, depending on whether they were wearing words that were edifying and encouraging or that were hurtful demeaning affixed to their garments. Each displayed a particular gift uniquely their own. Some hammed it up. Some took on the posture of the word pinned to their garments. Some let their faces tell the story. It was the gift of themselves. And of course, the winning garment was “Designed by Jesus.” It only took a spark for the congregation to be drawn into the created scenario of the first ever “Spirit of the Lord awards”.

Pentecost reminds us that we are rooted in abundance. We all have been given gifts through the work and presence of the Holy Spirit for the building up or the edification of God’s beloved community, for transforming lives and caring for all of creation. A significant gift is the gift of ourselves warmed by the fire of the Spirit – it is the thing we bring to the table that no one else has and creates an abundance of gifts and resources manifested in that of which we are most passionate. Like the Kurt Kaiser song, “It only takes a spark to get a fire going.” It is a spark of generosity of spirit and a willingness to share the love.

I first heard this song when I was in college. It was sung as a gift to the newly initiated into a sisterhood grounded in service, love and faith. I would hear it years later, and like the first time, again it was sung as a gift of love and encouragement to those seeking a deeper relationship with Christ. It only took a spark to spread the love. When sparks fly things are set ablaze and something wonderful emerges.

Like the giving of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost, when tongues like fire rested on the heads of those gathered, and they were given gifts to proclaim the good news in a way that everyone could understand, gifts are intended to be shared with others no strings attached. Freely we have received and freely we give. It only takes a spark. | tens.org

Questions for Reflection:

In what ways might sharing your gifts create sparks or lead to the emergence of something wonderful and transformative in your ministry or in the lives of others – in your family, community, or other environment?



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