

**Week of June 10-16, 2019: “I Didn’t Get Anything ... “ ... John 14:25-27**

“I didn’t get anything out of pastor’s sermon this week ...”. Have you ever found yourself saying this? Have you ever felt this way about a Bible Study you attended? If you have—you’re not alone: the apostles of Our Lord had similar feelings about what Jesus—the living Word Himself—was teaching them (Mark 6:52, 9:10, 32)!

On one occasion, Jesus took issue with their lack of understanding as He said to them, “How long must I bear with you” (Mark 9:19)? But bear with them He did as on the night before He died, Jesus promised to send them the Holy Spirit who would “teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (John 14:25-26). The promised Holy Spirit would come at the Feast of Pentecost and bring to mind all that Jesus had said so that they, in turn, could teach this to many others.

While we might not see the signs and wonders of that Pentecost day, the same Holy Spirit who, as Martin Luther wrote in his Small Catechism, has “called me by the Gospel” has also, as Luther says, “enlightened me with His gifts.” We too, through the Spirit’s gift of enlightenment, are given understanding as those first disciples once were (Psalm 119:169). We may well have said, at first, “I didn’t get anything out of pastor’s sermon this week” ... or out of his Bible Study ... or out of our own personal study of the Scriptures. But the seed of God’s Word was planted into you which, in time, takes root and grows as a word that never returns empty (Isaiah 55:10-11).

All this is done by the Holy Spirit’s work who has, first and foremost, brought to us Christ’s peace—made by His cross and resurrection-- which the world cannot give (John 14:27). In His peace, we have forgiveness; in His peace, we have life; in this peace, we gain understanding each day until we arrive at the full understanding of life everlasting.