



On the Gospel of Pentecost

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet. Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee? Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was? So there was a division among the people because of him. And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him. Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him? The officers answered, Never man spake like this man. Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived? Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him? But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed. Nicodemus saith

unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,) Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth? They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 7:37–52, 8:12 (Pentecost)

St. Nicholai of Zicha on this Gospel:

"For a better understanding, this comparison may help you: the sun shines in winter and in spring, but its light and warmth cannot make anything grow through the snow in winter. In spring, though, the same sun, that has the same warmth and light, makes all the sown seeds sprout and grow.... From Adam to Christ, men's souls were like the earth in winter. The Holy Spirit gave light and warmth but, because of the sinful twistedness of man's soul, and its separateness from God, it remained frozen, and no sort of fruit was able to sprout and grow from it. The Lord Jesus re-directed the soul of man, and brought it close to God, cleaned the ice and snow off it, ploughed it and sowed divine seed in it. And the Holy Spirit began then, like the sun in springtime, to bring forth and show, by His power, sweet and wonderful fruits in the field of the human soul."