

Building Community

Acts 2:41-47

1. Intro

1. We saw the Spirit come upon the Apostles so they could begin their ministry.
 1. Peter preached and brought conviction to those that were there.
 2. The foundation was being laid for the Church of Jesus Christ.
2. We now get a sense of how this new found believe affected people.

2. Basics

1. Consistency (42)
 1. Teaching and learning (Jesus crucified, buried, and raised from the dead) (I Cor 1:23)
 2. Fellowship
 3. Meals – including the Lord's supper
 4. Prayer
2. Awe (43)
 1. Wonder of what Jesus had done
 2. Miracles were still performed
 1. Empowering of the Holy Spirit (1:8)
 2. Helped lay the foundation of the church
3. Community (44)
 1. Shared
 1. Sold possessions as necessary to help one another (4:32-37)
 2. A need was seen and then fulfilled; person to person
 1. It became an issue later on (xf Acts 6:1-7)
 3. I don't believe they gave to the point where they became poor (I Tim 5:8)
 1. They gave up the idea of possessions by seeing themselves as good stewards to what God had provided.
 4. A general description of how the church conducted itself.
4. Worship (46)
 1. Temple – able to hold a large group (Jewish)
 1. The law, according to the Pharisees, is still enforce. Thus no Gentile in the Temple.
 2. Homes – most likely multiple homes for a large group
 1. Again, shared meals with one another
5. Praise (47)
 1. To God for what He had done
 2. Trust among the people
 3. Lord added
 1. People were coming to know Jesus on a daily basis.

3. Application

1. Should our churches look like First Century churches?
2. Our cultures are dramatically different so what we have may look different but we should be able to draw some basic principles from this text
3. The 4 things that they were steadfast in should be no different for us. These are fundamental to the Christian life.
 1. We should teach and learn
 2. We need to come together ([Heb 10:25](#))
 3. We need to come around the Lord's table consistently
 4. Prayer needs to happen
4. Holy Spirit reliance
 1. We need the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit
 1. The Holy Spirit resides in each one of us that acknowledges Jesus as Savior.
 2. How well do we allow Him to work in us?
 3. Miracles happened as the church foundation was laid; maybe on a regular basis.
 1. People being added to the church daily was miraculous.
 4. We need to seek the one who makes miracles happen and allow the Spirit to work through us.
5. Community connected
 1. I believe we fall down in this area.
 1. Our culture is centred around self, around me as an individual
 1. We are reluctant to let anyone else into our sphere
 2. We are designed for community.

4. Conclusion

1. Committed
 1. The early church was committed to what they believed.
 1. They lived it out.
 2. There was a distinct separation between the newborn church and the rest of the world.
 1. Such a distinction that it was the intent of some to kill those who taught about Jesus.
 3. They brought something to the table
 1. There was no “what can the church do for me” attitude.
 4. They were not perfect as we see the struggle in Acts 6, but they worked through it.