

Series: The Acts of the Holy Spirit: The Beginners Guide to Church

Sermon: Who the Church is

Primary Text: Acts 2:42-47, Acts 4:32-37

Discussion Guide:

- Read Acts 2:42
 - o What are the 4 items the Church was devoted to?
 - **How is character built in us?**
 - **Is character forced or is it a natural response in someone?**

One weekend my father asked me to mow the grass and I forgot. So Monday at 4am (the time my dad got up for work) I was woken up and handed a flashlight and told to go mow the grass. My father told me later that it would build character in me. To this day, I wake up early and work better in the morning, LOL.

- **Reflect on how your character was built?**
 - **Was it easy or did it require devotion and struggle?**
- Read Acts 2:43
 - o What does Awe for God look like in the Christian?
 - o How do we gain Awe for God?
 - o **Do you have an Awe for God?**
 - **If so, how do you display that in your life?**
 - **If not, how will you begin to change that?**
 - o Where can the church (Both Rocklane specifically and the global Church) make improvements in showing Awe for God?
- Read Acts 2: 44-45
 - o How does the fellowship we discussed last week feed the unity of generosity we see in these verses?
 - o The Acts Church was 3000 people, how does this kind of generosity get applied in a church this size (Hint-Acts 4:36-37)
 - o The kind of giving we see in the Acts church looks like “those who can take care of others simply do it”. What keeps us from responding this same way?
- Read Acts 2:46
 - o What does this passage tell us about the attitude of the church?
 - o William Barclay says a Gloomy Christian is a “contradiction in terms”. What does he mean?

- o We all know life is hard and seems particularly difficult lately. How should we, as Christians approach this difficulty?
- o Reflect on the following verses:
 - 2 corinthians 5:6-8, Luke 17:20-21, Matthew 6:34, Matthew 24:36, Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:18, John 17:13-23
 - What do these verses tell us about our condition in this world and our purpose?
- Read Acts 2:47
 - o What does it mean to have Favor with all people?
 - o How is this an evangelism tool?
 - o What things that we do cause Christians to not have favor with people?
 - Read 1 Corinthians 5:11-13
 - Where are we to focus our attention when it comes to sin?
 - How would Paul's direction create a church that finds favor with all people and is evangelistic?

Reflect on the Character of the Church. Is this you? Why or Why not. Pray that the Holy Spirit in you develops this character in you and repent for those things in you that do not reflect these things.