

BE the Church — Devoted to Mission

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Acts 2:41-47

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Ac 2:41–47.

There is something deeply resonating in our hearts when we're able to find "our people."

But there is a concerning trend in Seattle: Spiritual Homelessness. Many people will say with their mouth that they are Christians but they they don't belong to a spiritual family.

In the early church, what we see is a radical calling of centering and practicing their faith around a community — God added them to the family of the apostles. Their devotion was cemented toward each other.



God wants to add to a family. In this case, he added those who were beings saved. And in this case, these people were all Jews or Jewish converts. But they lacked Christ.

After Peter's message, those Jews are cut to the heart and repentant. They were religious and educated in the Hebrew Bible, but were still lost. And when Peter called them to repentance, God called them to belong to family.

They were called while still in progress, and if we remember back to when God called us, we were still in progress—are still in progress today. And Jesus is still at work in us and in the lives of the people around us.

The Temptation of The Church

The temptation of those in the church are to become judgmental critics and lose sight of Jesus' compassion for those who are lost.

When Jesus saw the people, he saw them as harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. What will set us apart is if we live with this sort of compassion but not abandoning truth. We are people called to walk in grace and truth.

When Peter preached truth, it cut people to the heart, and people were saved. God will continue to add people who will be saved.



And though they were all Jews and had the Hebrew Bible in common, they were from the four corners of the earth with many different cultural backgrounds. And it was by design that God put those people together so that they could get to know what it means to love God and to love each other, having compassion on one another.

And when we have people in our homes and do the average food and games and talk strategy, it builds community. It's in those moments where people can see the people of the church being the church.

Mission work is as simple as cooking food, eating meals, playing games, and getting to know each other. What would happen with us if we became devoted to creating communities like what we see in scripture?

What if we saw ourselves as the laborers that Jesus called for and we became the church on mission in our neighborhoods and schools and work places? Would you be willing to open your homes to create community like what we see in the early church?