

I. Intro

- A. Text: **Acts 2:29-47**
- B. The Assumed Solo Mission
 - 1. Solomon advised that there is power in numbers (**Ecc. 4:9-12**)

⁹Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. ¹⁰For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. ¹¹Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? ¹²Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

II. The Kingdom Life Learned

A. Jesus was ALWAYS accessible (**Acts 2:32-33**)

³²This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. ³³Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

- 1. Peter wasn't quoting something he read. But Peter preached what he saw.
- 2. Peter and the 120 people with him spoke out of experiencing Jesus for themselves. had in their own lives.
- 3. Jesus didn't just instruct us to make disciples, but He modeled how to do it with His life.
- 4. Jesus' discipleship program wasn't about an hour on a day of the week. Jesus was always with his disciples.
 - a. He didn't just pop up to give an hour sermon and then retreat into seclusion until the next week.
- 5. They ate together. Fished together. Traveled together.
 - a. Jesus modeled what it looks like to live a life in complete surrender to God the Father, but He did it while staying connected with men who just hadn't gotten it, yet.
- 6. "This Jesus has raised up, of which we are all witnesses" (**Acts 2:32**).

- a. They all (120) spent time with Jesus. They all learned at his feet.
- B. Jesus' Disciples Learned the Lesson and Lived it: Be Intimate (within), but stay accessible (from without)

¹When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all together one accord in one place. (Acts 2:1)

- 1. The disciples learned well.
 - a. 120 followers of Jesus stayed in a large upper room.
 - b. They were united. They were on one accord. **Acts 2:1:**
- 2. They were united (intimately), yet accessible
 - a. Thousands of spectators were close enough to hear and see the miraculous, yet unexplainable things going on with them.
 - i. Witnessed what looked like organized chaos.

*Somehow what was going on inside couldn't help but get outside.

- 3. Much of God's call on our lives to make disciples is really about modeling the grace of God before others in a way that provokes them to jealousy.
 - a. What was that all about?
- 4. Peter's answer to their lifelong question was in fact a Person: Jesus.

C. A new Era: Peter preached the gospel of Jesus and everything else just fell into place. **V. 37-41:**

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

³⁸Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

⁴⁰And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." ⁴¹Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. (Acts 2:37-41)

1. 3,000 people got saved.
 - a. Those 3,000 didn't put on their Rambo gear and go back to their own little corners across the region.
 - b. They didn't go back into their private combat areas until the next religious meeting.

III. The Call to Discipleship

A. They continued steadfastly in the apostle's teaching

⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1. They sat down long enough to be taught the things of God by the apostles.
2. They continued together
 - a. The mature and the babes.
 - b. The carnal and the spiritual heavyweights.
 - c. Their teaching wasn't just passing of information, but impartation... and it went both ways.

B. They did more than just have Bible Study. They shared ... lives together.

Fellowship (koinonia #2842): a giving away and receiving, sharing, mutual imparting

1. They shared and imparted. And it wasn't just a one-way flow.
2. Together the disciples dealt with loss, grief, betrayal, uncertainty, and fears. They did it together.
3. Together they learned conflict resolution skills and figured out how to make adjustments do to attrition (**1:15-26**).
 - a. Because people will walk away. It hurt, but they did it together.
4. They continued steadfastly together, knowing full well that their staying would soon graduate them into going. In the meantime, callings had to be recognized and affirmed. Leaders had to be raised up. They continued steadfastly together.

C. They prayed together.

1. They didn't just go to prayer. Their lives were a constant and very real prayer call.
 - a. They no doubt prayed through the teachings.
 - b. Prayed through the fellowship.
2. They didn't just go to Bible Study.
 - a. Their lives were an ever-present call to go back and seek the counsel of God.
 - b. They sat down somewhere and were poured into.
3. As hinted to earlier, the impartation was mutual. Not just one way sharing...
 - a. As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend (**Prov. 27:17**)
 - i. Certainly that sharpening goes both ways.

*Somehow the pouring out was teaching the teacher as much as the teachee!

D. They broke bread together.

1. They did real life together.
 - a. They were filled with the Holy Spirit together.
 - b. And somehow their filling served as the initiation to the discipleship cycle.

E. They lived lives marked by hospitality and selflessness... together (**V. 43-46**)

⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. ⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

1. They shared (had all things in common), not only their things... but their very lives (2:44)
 - a. They actually allowed people into their homes

- b. They buried the thinking of Me, my four and no more.
- c. Instead, they actually shared intimate moments, vulnerabilities, etc.

2. They literally gave their vitality and their livelihood to others.

- a. They gave away their time.
- b. They gave away forgiveness (no doubt).
- c. They gave away longsuffering. Not that those who received it, had earned it.

IV. Conclusion: The Lord added daily to the church.

⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

A. The Lord provided increase daily.

- 1. May I submit that the increase (addition) was in no way one dimensional?
 - a. The more they increased in depth together (maturity), the more they increased in width (bringing others in).
 - i. The more mature we become, the more our burden to fish becomes.
 - ii. And as we obey in faith the call to fish, God gives us increase in our maturity.
 - b. As we faithfully answer the call to disciple those whom we've brought in, we may get the impression that we are somehow cleaning the fish we just caught.

*Actually it is God who does both the fishing AND the cleaning through us.

- i. And as God uses us to clean fish, somehow God uses those fish to clean us. And the saga continues.