

SERMON GUIDE:

July 9, 2023, Pastor Jason Smotherman

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn about the word devoted in last week's message?
2. Why do we not see some of the signs, miracles and wonders that Acts 2:43 mentions?
3. What were the Apostles Doctrine mentioned in Acts 2:40-47
4. In order to have the miracle of fellowship you must:
 - Be devoted to grow in maturity as a believer in Christ.
 - Learn to be a contributor not a consumer.
 - Be willing to ask for counsel and help.
5. Which area do you struggle in the most? How can others in your circle help you grow in this area?

SERMON NOTES

This sermon is a continuation of his sermon Holy Spirit Part 3, Holy Spirit Driven Church. You can find those full notes online at www.parkwaycc.com/s/notes-06252023.pdf

Acts 2:40-47

40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." 41 Then those who gladly[a] received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they **continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.** 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, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church[b] daily those who were being saved.

Their fellowship had 4 main elements:

1. It was centered around Christ (the breaking of bread: **communion. In prayers**)

The breaking of bread: communion and prayers were apart of their time together.

They talked about the the change Jesus made in them and the pray about their needs.

2. It had a certain lifestyle about it (**The apostles doctrine**)

The Apostles' doctrine. (As Summarized by Pastor Jay)

- Unity in Core beliefs (See main notes)
- Outward acts of fellowship (They did LIFE together. Wasn't ME centered)
- Acts of common worship (They became the church together)
- Acts of mutual kindness and benevolence. (They lived generously and hospitable)



The one Greek word diverges afterwards into the sense of what we technically call “communion,”

3. It was centered around the Church (**The church is not a building, its us**)

Signs and wonders, people getting saved, sacrificial giving, simplicity in heart. They were there for each other.

4. It was constantly adding to its circle. (**Never stop inviting**)

Their circle was never closed.

Acts 21:7-12

7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples **came together to break bread**, Paul, **ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.**

8 There were many lamps in the upper room where they[a] were gathered together. 9 And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. 10 But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, “Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him.” 11 **Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed.** 12 **And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.**

Two miracles took place that day.

The young man being raised from the dead.

The second was the miracle of fellowship.

They were saddened more for the fellowship that was ending than they were comforted that the young man was raised from the dead

The miracle of fellowship.

Fellowship defined

friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests:

Fellowship thesaurus

a community bound together in fellowship: companionship, companionability, sociability, comradeship, **camaraderie, friendship, mutual support**; togetherness, solidarity;

What causes the church to grow isn't just the miracles but the fellowship.

- Church was never meant to just be a Sunday thing.
- You were never meant to go at in alone.
- The growing of your walk actually takes place during fellowship.



- Your whole life should be given to hospitality.

Acts 2:44-47

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

I John 1:5-7

5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 **If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.** 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, **we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

In order to have the miracle of fellowship you must:

1. Be devoted to grow in maturity as a believer in Christ.

You hang around people: you will get offended and be offended.

You hang around people: you will compare and you shouldn't.

You hang around people: you will justify and that never ends well.

But if....

You hang around Godly people: you will be challenged

You hang around Godly people: you will be stretched

You hang around Godly people: you will be changed

Proverbs 27:17 (NKJV)

17 As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

2. Learn to be a contributor not a consumer.

Sold their possessions and divided them up equally.....

Consumerism in the the world of faith doesn't work.

Faith that does not give is not faith.

There's no equal giving but equal sacrifice.

Matthew 19:16-22 (NKJV)

16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, "**Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?**" 17 So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." 18 He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall



not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 19 'Honor your father and your mother,'and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

20 The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth.What do I still lack?"21 Jesus said to him, "**If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.**"

22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Scholars say that this young man was actually called to be a disciple. This conversation was recorded as Jesus calling a young man to become one of His disciples. The young man had a perspective that was poison to his calling. He wanted the gift of eternal life.

He wanted to consume his way to maturity. You give your way to maturity in Christ.

3. Be willing to ask for counsel and help.

You never know when you'll fall asleep and fall out of the 3rd story building. You need the people of God around who call you back to life!

Some Final Thoughts!

Factor in the TIME AND MARGIN!

Be INTENTIONAL AND PERSISTENT!

LEARN how to get over it

Assume people want and need you around and **show up!**

When you get together talk about the things of God.

Don't chop the church up!

Be In fellowship with HIM AND THEM!