

Sermon Summary 09/20/2015

Acts 2:42-47 – “When a Church grows Deeper and Broader” by Drew Hunter

Sunday's Outline

Luke uses this popular passage as a general summary of what every church should strive to be. It's not meant to be an exact blueprint for every church to strive to copy today, but in this text we see the five marks of the revived church. A revived church is:

1. *A Learning Church* – the people devoted themselves to listening to the apostles' teaching
2. *A Sharing Church* – they shared allegiance to Jesus and shared their possessions with one another
3. *An Eating Church* – they ate meals and celebrated communion together
4. *A Praying Church* – they devoted themselves to praying with and for one another
5. *A Growing Church* – the city was drawn to this new community (1-4 above) and grew as a result

The church in Acts 2 was a balanced church. It was balanced between head and heart, knowing and doing, community and mission, and awe and joy. They were constantly growing deeper and wider.

Quotations

5 traits common to how God works when he brings revival and renewal to a place:

1. **Awareness of God's presence:** “The first and fundamental feature in renewal is the sense that God has drawn awesomely near in his holiness, mercy, and might.”
2. **Responsiveness to God's Word:** “The message of Scripture which previously was making only a superficial impact, if that, now searches its hearers and readers to the depth of their being.”
3. **Sensitiveness to sin:** “Consciences become tender and a profound humbling takes place.”
4. **Liveliness in community:** “Love & generosity, unity & joy, assurance & boldness, a spirit of praise & prayer, & a passion to reach out to win others, are recurring marks of renewed communities.”
5. **Fruitfulness in testimony:** “Christians proclaim by word and deed the power of the new life, souls are won, and a community conscience informed by Christian values emerges.” -J.I. Packer

Help for Understanding & Application

- 1) Explain why Luke doesn't intend this passage in Acts 2 to be the one and only model for what a church should look like. That said, what foundational principles does he clearly affirm?
- 2) The early Christians heard the story of Jesus (i.e. the gospel) and learned that it not only fulfilled the story of the Old Testament, but it also fulfilled the longings of their own hearts. In your own words, what is the gospel? How does the gospel *specifically* fulfill the longings of your heart?
- 3) In what ways does your small group show that the preaching of the Word is a functional priority (i.e. through your small group's actions)?
- 4) Explain how Jesus giving up everything at the cross shapes the way we should look at everything in our life as a gift.
- 5) Does the Bible have functional priority in your life?
- 5) Has the generous impulse in Jesus' heart toward you made you have a generous impulse towards others?
- 6) How often do you eat a meal with someone else in this church? In your small group?
- 7) Is praying with other believers a functional priority for you?
- 8) Do we have an eagerness for the Lord to add to our number day by day?