

Small Group Guide - 12/5/21

Acts 2:41-47 - The Marks of the First Church

## **Sermon Outline**

Recap: \*Holy Spirit Falls on Believers (2:1-4)

\*Crowd Gathers and Peter Preaches Christ (2:5-36)

\*Conviction of the Rejection of Messiah (2:36-37)

\*Call to Repentance and Faith, Shown by Baptism (2:38-40)

\*New Believers Join other Believers in Jerusalem (2:41)

\*Marks of the First Local Church (2:42-47)

### 1. Mark #1: Devotion (Acts 2:42)

\*They were devoted to the apostles' teaching. - hearing and obeying

\*They were devoted to fellowship. ("partnership", "participation", "sharer")

\*They were devoted to meals and communion.

\*They were devoted to prayer.

\*\*\*Our devotion is seen by our time, money, and presence.

### 2. Mark #2: Awe and Expectation (Acts 2:43)

\*\*\* "phobos" - reverential awe - what was happening couldn't be ignored

\*There was a reverent fear about them.

\*There was a holy expectation among them.

\*There was a God-defining and God-glorifying ministry through them.

\*\*\*What in our lives and church can only be explained by God where He alone gets the glory?

### 3. Mark #3: Sacrificial Unity (Acts 2:44-45)

\*United to the Person and Mission of Christ - nothing in common but Jesus! Spirit works unity!

\*United to the People of Christ in Sacrificial Generosity

\*We value each other because we were paid for by Christ.

\*We belong to each other because Christ purchased us together.

\*Not communism/socialism - one taken by force, the other offered in love

\*\*\*Our treatment of Christ's people shows our value of Christ.

### 4. Mark #4: Daily Faithfulness (Acts 2:46-47)

\*\*\*The dimensions of where all this took place

\*Gathering in public for praise and ministry - worship & witness in the temple (same for us! Ha)

\*Gathering in homes for fellowship

\*Living in joyful obedience to Jesus - attitude and expression of what they were experiencing

\*\*\*As they lived obediently day by day, the Lord added day by day.

## **Small Group Questions**

1. What spoke to you in the Bible passage and sermon?
2. What were the early believers' devoted to? Was their emphasis different from ours? If so, in what areas and why? If applicable, what areas does the American church need to shift focus?
3. In v. 43, what does "awe" mean? What was happening to bring about this awe? What does it mean to pray for something that can only be explained by God where He alone gets the glory?
4. Where did the believers' unity come from? Why is unity so essential? What prevents unity?
5. In v. 46-47, what was the church's responsibility, and what was God's work? How do these two aspects correlate with each other?