

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide
Spirituality and Our Stuff / Rekindle Series
Acts 2:42-47

October 1, 2023

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ 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, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

REFLECTION

This week we end this four-week teaching series through Acts, right after Peter delivers the first recorded sermon. Ending this series on spiritual vitality on pledge Sunday might not feel congruent or appropriate. **Read the passage and consider, how might these two concepts that we typically separate go together?**

As the first church tried to figure out how to organize themselves to continue to live in the spirit, they were clear in what they devoted themselves to, and what they turned over to God. **Consider each of these, and what this clarity can teach us:**

- 1) Devoted to teaching the stories of Jesus - connecting his prophesied arrival from the Old Testament.
- 2) Devoted themselves to prayer - what began on the day of Pentecost continues in a rhythm of life.
- 3) Intimate fellowship - gathered daily in temple and each other's homes.
- 4) Extravagant generosity - they gave wherever they saw need.

As the early church demonstrated, how we handle our own stuff is important to our faith being rekindled, and the most practical way we can embody the life and ministry of Jesus. Pagan Romans noticed Christians by their extravagant generosity, and used it to persecute them - tying cannibalism to the both the eucharist and their caring for unwanted children. As our own neighbors have noticed Covenant's relief of medical and school debt, we strive to emulate the essence of who Jesus was, who practically gave everything away. Consider this quote by Dallas Willard: "Discipleship is the process of becoming who Jesus would be if he were you." Extravagant generosity engages us in the story of redemption being written by God out of love. **How can generosity rekindle your faith, and bring you joy and the presence of purpose?**