

Sunday, May 1, 2022 - "Church? - Week 2 - The Church: Act 2" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Ephesians 3:9-10, Acts 2:1-13, Acts 2:37-46, 2 Corinthians 3:18

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Ephesians 3:9-10
 - The mystery is Jesus
 - Our mission is to share God's restorative plan to save mankind...How do we live this out?
- Acts 2:1-13, Acts 2:37-46
- Acts 2:42 -> This doesn't happen without the Holy Spirit
 - When the Spirit is involved there is always transformation (2 Corinthians 3:18)
 - Just participating doesn't mean growth and life change
 - Transformation comes from the Lord who is Spirit
 - Not a Self help work
 - We can't transform ourselves but we can short circuit the process (not hearing and obeying)
- What did the early church do? They devoted themselves to 4 things
 - 1) Sound Biblical teaching
 - Study AND apply the teachings of scripture
 - The scriptures shape who we are
 - We should be pinched a little bit by what we read and study
 - 2) Fellowship
 - Most difficult part of church
 - More than hanging out...watching out for each other, giving and sacrificing for one another
 - It's hard because it costs everything...the Jesus way
 - Who is at your table?
 - You can be at church and still be isolated...isolation always leads to desolation
 - 3) Communion ("breaking of bread")
 - v46 = sharing a meal, v42 = communion
 - Why is it important?
 - Without simple reminders we forget essential truths...helps us remember
 - It fosters community
 - Opportunity to stop and examine where we are at with Jesus
 - It's more than a ritual and is not to be taken lightly
 - 4) Prayer ("the prayers")
 - Emphasis on memorizing scripture and praying specific prayers
 - Jesus memorized and prayed scripture
 - Prayer is the foundation of all we do
 - Before Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit, they were devoted to prayer

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How have you experienced transformation through the Holy Spirit?
2. How is God asking you to move from just participating to being actively engaged in the work of God in your life?
3. How have you been impacted by sound Biblical teaching?
4. What does fellowship mean to you? What makes it difficult to fund and sustain fellowship?
5. How is God asking you to lay down your life for others in your life?
6. What does it look like for you to examine yourself?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: John 11 Tues: John 12 Wed: John 13 Thurs: John 14 Fri: John 15

Songs from the weekend: [Again I say Rejoice - *Israel Houghton*] - [Joy of the Lord - Grace Worship] - [Made A Way - Travis Greene] - [Goodness of God - *Bethel Music*]