

“Love Changes Everything”
Personal and Small Group Study

Read: Acts 2:42-47

1. Look carefully at the commitments of the early church. How are they same or different from your own commitments?
2. When was the last time you shared communion with your family after dinner or with guests after dinner? Why do we mostly reserve communion for church?
3. Where do you most often join with others for prayer? What do you see God doing because of your prayers?
4. When you think about studying God’s Word and Praying with other believers, what expectations grow in your life? What are you expecting God to do presently?
5. Would you say that your neighbors enjoy you being part of the neighborhood? What opportunities does that give you for sharing your faith? What opportunities has that given you to pray with your neighbors about a concern in their lives?

Read: Acts 3:1-1 and 4:1-4

1. What was different about Peter and John going to the Temple that on this day, when they saw the lame man they had previously passed by so many times?
2. What did the man who was lame expect from Peter and John and what did he get? Did the man have the faith or did Peter have the faith for healing?
3. What was the result of Peter healing the man who was lame? Do you think that Peter expected what happened by seeing this man and entering into the lame man’s life?
4. Do you expect God to work when He opens your eyes to a person in need? Why or why not?

“Love Changes Everything—Our World”
Love Changes Everything Part 4
Acts 2 and 3

***How is the Church to carry out
the “Will and Testament” of Jesus?***

1. By walking in the Spirit

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 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, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47

First, walking in the Spirit is a truth walk.

"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.
John 14:15-17

"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. And you also must testify...
John 15:26-27

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. John 16:12-14

Second, walking in the Spirit produces the fruit of change.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23

What was the commitment?

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42

- **A commitment to instruction in the Word**
- **A commitment to the Body of Christ**
- **A commitment to following Christ's instructions**
- **A commitment of prayer.**

What was the result?

- **An expectation of God's working**

Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

Acts 2:43

- **A commitment to sharing resources motivated by love**

All the believers were together and had everything in common. Acts 2:44

- **A faith that was a daily reality not a once a week routine.**

Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 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... Acts 2:45-46

- **A passion for God, an enjoyment by neighbors, and a commitment to share their hope.**

...praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:47

How is the Church to carry out the "Will and Testament" of Jesus?

2. By seeing people.

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer — at three in the afternoon. Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. Acts 3:1-10

Application: What changes do you need to make to have an impact in the lives of people around you? What is one thing you could do this week?