



Acts 2: 42-47

Sermon preached on February 7 by George Hinman

The Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts come from the same person, and we can therefore understand Acts as a follow up to Luke. Like all four Gospels, Luke has given witness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Acts will inform us that the resurrection of Jesus is not “the end of the story.” The apostles who were with Jesus are now called to carry out the good news of the resurrection to their community, and indeed to the whole world.

In Acts chapter 1, Jesus is still with the disciples after his resurrection. His last words to the disciples before his ascension give them their mission to be witnesses throughout the whole world through the power of the Holy Spirit. Chapter 2 will be the event of Pentecost and the giving of the Holy Spirit to this new community of believers.

Our text can be understood as “the ramifications” of the witness of this newly instituted group of people empowered by the spirit, known as The Church.

1. What reflections do you have from Sunday’s sermon?

Read together Acts 2: 42-47

2. Some translations separate verse 42 from 43 through 47 (i.e. NRSV). However, we are looking at them as the same passage. How does our understanding of verse 42 change if we see it as part of 43 through 47 (if indeed it does change)?

3. Verse 46 indicates that the people were “together” regularly. What are the two locations in which the people were together? How does this impact our understanding of what life in community was like for the first church?

4. One biblical commentator states that this passage is a summary of the church’s community life and mission in Jerusalem, and that the primary purpose was to nurture the Christian community. As you look over this passage, do you agree? Why or why not?

5. Spend some time really thinking and talking about how you see the church today (and our particular church, University Presbyterian) living out this passage. Where are we doing well? Where do we need to do better?

1/10 Alone in a Perfect World
Genesis 2:18-25
George Hinman

1/17 Love You Can See
Exodus 19:1-6
George Hinman

1/24 One God, Three Persons, and
All the Rest
John 17:13-23
Bruce Baker

1/31 Good News Makes True
Friends
Matthew 18:21-35
George Hinman

2/7 The Fellowship of Jesus
Acts 2:42-47
George Hinman

2/14 Growing up Together
Ephesians 4:1-16
George Hinman