

Series: How Jesus Acts Through Us Today; Sermon: **The Community of Jesus**; delivered by **Josh Moody**, senior pastor, on March 1, 2020

**Bible text explored: Acts 2:42–47**

<sup>42</sup>And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. [ESV]

**Review and application:**

*Today's text is the first of three vignettes Luke wrote describing the new community of Jesus followers in Jerusalem. You can follow the second one in 4:32-35; the third is in 5:12-16. In these vignettes of the early church, Luke is contrasting the vibrant community of Jesus with the increasingly corrupt and merely human religiosity of the temple man.*

*The Temple of Man*

1. At first (v. 46), the new community's worship was centered in the expansive courtyard of the Temple. (See also *Acts 3:1, 11* and *5:12b*.) What were some of the elements that characterized the temple man's merely human religiosity? (See *Acts 4:1-2, 16-17* and *5:17-18*.)
2. How did beggars at the Temple (*Acts 3:2*) demonstrate traditional religion's failure to care for the poor?

*The Community of Jesus*

3. The first element of this new community was *the gospel* on which it was based. What (*Acts 2:36*) was the Spirit-empowered message Peter delivered to the gathered Pentecost crowd?  
What (*Acts 2:37*) demonstrated the conviction that gripped his audience?  
How (*Acts 2:38-39*) did Peter instruct them to respond?  
How compelling (*Acts 2:41*) was the crowd's follow-through?
4. How (v.42) did this good news shape the activities of this rapidly growing community?
5. The second element (v. 43) was *spiritual power*. While the Spirit used these wonders and signs to demonstrate God's stamp of approval on the new community, have you witnessed a divine intervention in our day?  
How (v. 47) did this affect how the community was perceived?  
(See also, *Acts 5:12-16*.)
6. The third element (vv. 44-45) was *radical generosity*. How did this community provide for converts who lacked basic needs?  
What (v. 46b) motivated this voluntary action?  
How did this fulfill God's intention for his people? (See *Deut. 15:4*.)
7. What (47b) is the natural outcome in a joyful community that is mutually supportive? (See also *Acts 5:14*.)