

January 13, 2019
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Run With The Pack: Episode 2
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Acts 2:42-47

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

**We have a tendency to turn the churches experience in Acts 2 into
a Utopian understanding of how all churches should be.**

Reclaiming Devotion: The biblical understanding of ecclesiastical devotion supposes love, loyalty and a hearts offering of time, treasure and talent for the betterment of a local community.

Vs. 42 “And they *devoted* themselves” to what?

1. The Study and Truth of God’s Word. (Apostles Teaching)

- God’s word offers a compass and anchor.
- **1 Corinthians 16:13** *Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, **act like men**, be strong.*
¹⁴ *Let all that you do be done in love.* ¹⁵ **Now I urge you, brothers**—you know that the household...

2. The Fellowship. “*Use of the direct article”

3. The Breaking of Bread.

- This is a 2 fold meaning of communion and meals together.

4. Prayer.

- *If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. **2 Chronicles 7:14***
 - Large scale spiritual and social transformation begin at the doors of the local church and is not built upon large scale projects and programs, but rather crucified hearts.

These four devotions set the stage for a massive work of God in their community.

Question— What does massive social change look like?

- **Vs. 43** *And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.*
 - **Relational reconciliation:** *And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous--to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. **Malachi 4:6***
 - **Physical healing:** *A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. **Proverbs 17:22***
 - **Social restoration & Favor in their community:**
 - **Vs. 45** *And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.*
 - **Vs. 47** *—praising God and having favor with all the people.*
 - **Healed hearts: Vs. 46** *They received their food with glad and generous hearts.*
 - **More people began to follow Jesus. Vs. 47b** *And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

Food for the journey— Use these challenges and questions to dig deeper this week.

1. Four devotions set the stage for massive social change. How many of these do you currently practice in your spiritual walk?
2. Social change according to this scripture does not begin with outward focused programs, but rather God's people getting it right in regard to humility and devotion to seeking Him within their community. Do you think we get that backwards sometimes?
3. What would social change in the city you live in look like?
4. **Challenge:** Over the next 3 weeks, choose a community group to devote yourself to here at LJCF.
5. **Challenge:** Ask to pray for someone you know or meet during your week out and about in your community.