

18/06/2023 - Carey Baptist Church 10.30am
Acts 2: 42-47 (Acts 4:32-35)

We Praise God for the blessing that HE has given of HIS Word to share.

Today we are looking at few verses from the book of Acts of the apostles recorded by DR. Luke.

Very interesting book which talks a lot about unity and coming together in Christ. So, when we look at these verses, we tend to believe that this coming together and praying with sharing a meal is about few members of a Prayer group or a fellowship. We also might think that “ah this is not very complicated or not rocket science to get the umbers correctly for the meal and Prayer and to plan the evening”. And, to ask the few people around about their needs and try to fulfil them.

Because the starting verse 42, states that – *“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”*

It is always good to go back & forth of the selected verse or verses to get a clear picture. What I do normally. Because these letters and books were not written in chapters and verses as they did not exist 2000 years ago.

So, look at the verse just before that.

If you look at verse 41 of Acts 2, it states – “Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. And then continue to verse 42 which states “they devoted themselves....” Then who are “they”? They are the 3000! May not be the whole lot, but it would have been a significant amount. You see now, what an extraordinary task that was. As Colin quite rightly named this series the “Marks of the Church” these are the special qualities the world may notice among the Christians.

We all know that at that time, they were not called Christians, but they were called “The Way”. And, the Romans called them the “Nazarene sect!” both could be found in Acts 24:5 and in verse 14.

You see, devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer, was a humongous task. But that was possible, because the Lord was with them in the person of the Holy Spirit.

If you ever wonder why the signs and wonders are less in the present Church or when the world says that the Churches are dying today, I will ask myself if we have this type of unity in today’s Church. See what

verse 43 says, “Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles”.

This is the power of coming together. If we look at the New Testament carefully, we will notice that whenever God stirred HIS Holy Spirit, they were together in one place and in one accord.

The evil one will throw many things to spoil the work of God, but we win at the end as the battle is the Lord’s.

We would be thrown the issue of differences of many types that may hinder our coming together. Busyness also another weapon of the evil one as one would call, ‘Being Under Satan’s York’ but we should always take these to the Lord first. Let alone the Prayer meetings or Bible studies, nowadays making time to come to Church on a Sunday is a challenge or may not be able to find a reason. I would urge though, that if you can’t find any positive reason to fellowship, just get dressed and turn up, trusting in the Lord, and you will see what God could do with your soul by just being present.

Now here comes the more difficult part! Verse 45 says that – “They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.”

Before we move on, let me tell you something about Carey Baptist Church! This is purely bosting on the Lord and not on the Church. I have witnessed that in anyone’s need, this Church has come together amazingly. There are people present here who has benefitted so much from this Church, including my own family. This is where the power is. You may not be able to sell your house and help someone at Church, yet the deeds what you do are well noticed in Heaven. If the world notices them, then let them glorify the Father in Heaven and we don’t even expect a thank you because we store treasures in Heaven, where...– *“moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”* The good acts of this Church have been in secret, and I am sure the Lord honours them.

Let’s move on! The Word of God says that *“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts”*. You see, not only on Sundays!

“They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people”.

Awesome things in these verses. *“Ate together with glad and sincere hearts”* no moaning!

We know that we wouldn’t say these things of moaning, yet the Lord wants us to assure that the only thing what should come out of our mouths are the Praises of God! Look at the next part which says, *“praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people.”*

One may ask “why”? What’s the point in this gladness and Paises!

We know the scripture assures that our Almighty God dwells among the praises of HIS people! Psalmist declares it in Psalms 22:3 as “But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel”.

Then what happens, next, *“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved”*.

Isn't this our Prayer! Isn't this what we see each Sunday! Look at the dear Church, we are growing in HIS favour therefore do not stop what you are doing, let the 'Marks of the Church' be visible to the world that they may Glorify the Father in Heaven, in the Name of our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave HIMSELF on a Cross for us. Became sin who knew no sin. All because HE wanted everyone saved and added to the family of God so that we could spend eternity with our Lord together with our loved ones.

Therefore, we say together, “Come Lord Jesus”. Amen.