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| ***Title:*** | The Commission in Full Swing |
| ***Text:*** | Acts 2:41-47 |
| ***Subject:*** | What part did church life play in the great commission? |
| ***Compliment:*** | Involvement in church life transformed the harvested into harvesters. |
| ***CIT:*** | Through Luke’s account we see that faithful participation in church life sufficiently fulfilled the training aspect of the Great Commission enabling the newly harvested saints to become harvesters themselves! |
| ***Purpose:*** | To show the importance of participating in church life after salvation! |
| ***Homiletic Idea:*** | It is still through active participation in church life that a person is transformed from spiritual product to spiritual producer. |
| ***Intro:*** |  |

Chapter 1:1 We find out that the gospels were just the beginning of all Jesus began to do and to teach, there was and is more that He desires to do, and the book of Acts is the first in a series of accounts chronicling Jesus continued work, now through the local New Testament Church, which he established during his earthly ministry.

Chapter 1:1-11 We are introduced, once again, to the Holy Ghost of God, the vehicle through which Jesus intends to empower and guide and grow the members of this church for the work to which they have been called!

Chapter 1:12-14 We find this church unanimously yielded to Jesus and therefore completely unified in Jesus.

Chapter 1:15-26 We find that this church, though it could have been stumped by an issue that the Word of God wasn’t entirely clear on, was able to move forward trusting in the Biblical leadership God had provided.

Chapter 2:1-41 The one event that has been keeping the church from moving forward in pursuit of the commission they received from the Lord has now come to pass, and so the very next thing Peter does is explain the event and point to its significance with regard to the identity of this Jesus. This is probably the most effective gospel presentation in history leading to the conversion of thousands of Jews.

This brings us to our passage for today, Acts 2:41-47, the commission in full swing! The gospel has been preached. The converts have been baptized and added to the body, and now the final portion of this commission cycle, the equipping of the saints. CIT Stated: Through Luke’s account we see that faithful participation in church life sufficiently fulfilled the training aspect of the Great Commission enabling the newly harvested saints to become harvesters themselves!

Transition: What did a person do once they were saved and baptized?

1. ***They actively participated in church life!***
   1. They continued steadfastly…
      1. “they continued” – has to do with their state of being, or what they were. It would be like they continued as something or in some state. They existed as something.
      2. “stedfast” - to adhere to one, be his adherent, to be devoted or constant to one; to be steadfastly attentive unto, to give unremitting care to a thing; to continue all the time in a place; to persevere and not to faint; to show one's self courageous for; to be in constant readiness for one, wait on constantly.
      3. The idea is to participate or take part in.

Transition: What did they continue steadfast in?

* 1. They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship (the apostles doctrine and fellowship is one thing they continued in because there is no comma).
     1. Doctrine means teaching or that which is taught.
     2. Fellowship has more to do with co-laboring than it does with hanging out. A key word in the def. is ‘participation’.

Transition: So they participated in the apostles’ teaching and in the apostles’ work! They got involved, they took part in, they contributed to, the learned and they worked!

* 1. They continued steadfastly in the breaking of bread.
     1. Because V46 alludes to this being something done daily, I don’t think this is a reference to the Lord’s Supper.
     2. More probable that this is a reference to what we would call fellowship.
  2. They continued steadfastly in prayers.
     1. They did not have Bibles to take home and read.
     2. This was the personal side of their walk with the Lord!

Transition: What was the result?

1. ***The harvested grew.***
   1. V43 they grew in their reverential fear or respect and awe for God and His work.
   2. V44-45 they grew in their care for one another sacrificially giving to meet the needs of others.
      1. This wasn’t something that was mandated by the leadership.
      2. They simply cared for one another and the work so much that they were moved to sacrificial action!
   3. V46-47a they grew in unity and developed extreme joy in their bond together.
      1. Gladness caries the idea of ‘extreme joy’.
      2. Singleness of heart means one heart or one mind.
      3. They were not divided, but were on the same page.
      4. “all the people” is referring to those they congregated with, not all people in general, pointing to the idea, again, of great unity within the body.

Transition: and eventually…

1. ***The harvested became the harvesters alongside of those that harvested them.***
   1. V47b they saw folks saved and added to the body.
      1. People were getting saved because of what was taking place within that body!
   2. The end, results in the continuation of the cycle!

Application:

Homiletic Idea: It is still through active participation in church life that a person is transformed from spiritual product to spiritual producer.

* There is life after salvation!
  + We must actively participate in the preaching and teaching and reading of God’s Word!
    - Every time The Book is preached or taught make a point to be there!
      * Sunday Morning
      * Sunday Night
      * Wednesday Night
      * Special Meetings
        + Missions Conference
        + Men’s Meetings
        + Ladies Meetings
    - Every day make a point to get in it and familiarize yourself with it!
    - Whether you hear it or read continue in it by striving to work the truths out in your life!
  + We must actively participate in the work of the ministry, that effort towards accomplishing the Great Commission throughout the world!
    - There are more ministry opportunities in this church than there have ever been before!
      * Hospitality
      * Sunday School
        + Teaching
        + Helping (by the way if you aren’t called to the one you are called to the other!)
      * Outreach
        + Nursing Home
        + V.A. Home
        + Rescue Mission
        + Visiting folks in the hospital
        + Follow up on visitors to the church
        + Invite friends and family
        + Invite coworkers
      * Cleaning
  + We must actively participate in fellowship as we know it, growing together in the Lord!
    - Taking time to grow closer to one another is an essential part of accomplishing the great commission!
    - Get plugged in when we have activities as a class or as a church!
    - Participate!
  + We must participate in prayer!
    - For our church
    - For our class
    - For our families
    - For ourselves!
* Through this comes Growth!

And…

* Through this the cycle of the Great Commission continues!

Conclusion: It was church life that enabled the harvested to become harvesters themselves. It is through the church still that Christ desires to make that happen for you and I. The church always has been and always will be the vehicle for accomplishing the work Jesus began to do, but we must participate. We cannot sit on the sidelines. That isn’t the example we are given by this first church, that isn’t the way Jesus designed it.

It is still through active participation in church life that a person is transformed from spiritual product to spiritual producer, and thus the cycle of the commission continues!

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| ***Dates and Locations Delivered*** | |  |
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