

Acts 2 v 42 onwards – Sermon notes - Turning the world upside down – both Lord and Christ

- 1) **Learning Church (42)** Those who are in the Church are not resting on their laurels, they are learning. The passage says that the people in the church **devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching**. Are we devoted to learning more about Jesus Christ and his plan for our lives or are we a bit half hearted.
- 2) **Together Church** – great quality of togetherness (42) They were a group of people who liked being with each other. It says in the passage that they met daily, not once a week or when they felt like it. Is this how we feel about St Matthews – do we want to spend as much time here as possible with others from the church.
- 3) **Praying and Disciplined church** (42) Praying churches are ones which pray first and act second. There is a culture of prayer both corporate and individual. Prayer is our key relationship with God – it is time to talk and listen to Him. Prayer requires discipline.
- 4) **Reverent Church** (43) Verse 43 uses the word Awe – they were in awe of God and what He was doing in the church. There were signs and wonders, it doesn't say but one imagines people being healed. This wasn't a God you could contain and bring Him out when you needed him.
- 5) **Happening Church (43)** – I have mentioned the signs and wonders but there was an expectation that God would arrive in the place through his Spirit. Do we come to church with that expectation that God will do something in our lives. It may not be visible signs and wonders but are we expecting to be transformed?
- 6) **Generous and Sharing Church (45)** ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. This is about sacrifice – selling your things for the benefit of others. We are generous in this church but could we be much more radical?
- 7) **Worshipping Church** (46) – I have already mentioned they met daily. William Barclay puts it very nicely *They never forgot to visit God's house. We must remember that "God knows nothing of solitary religion"(quote from John Wesley) Things can happen when we come together. God's Spirit moves upon his worshipping people.*
- 8) **Happy Church** (46) –they ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷**praising God and having the goodwill of all the people**. It was a nice place to be, the people were cheerful and good to be with. The inner lives of the people spilled out and this ultimately meant that they were an..
- 9) **Attractive Church** (47) - **many were added to their number**, because those who came into contact with them wanted to know what their secret was. The secret of course was that this was a church totally focused on God. They were living out the greatest Commandment – To Love God with all their hearts and loving their neighbours as themselves.

Questions for each one of us to consider

- **Am I devoted in learning about God**
- **Do I want to spend time with others from church**
- **Do I pray and am I disciplined about prayer**
- **Do I come to church with a sense of expectation and awe**
- **Am I sacrificial in my giving**
- **Do I make every effort to worship God regularly**
- **Do I contribute to the church being a happy place to be**