

Reflection Questions: Acts 2:42-47

For the message, "Devoted to One Another" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on November 16, 2024

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Acts 2:42 & immediate context

41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. **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.

Bottom Line:

- We cannot become devoted followers of Jesus without being devoted to Jesus' people.
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Let's get started...

- In our study of this passage, the pastor began by referencing a study that described an "epidemic of loneliness" in America. In what ways have you noticed these trends in our society? What shifts have taken place that you think might be causing this to become more prevalent?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- What connection do you see in this passage between people become followers of Jesus and becoming devoted to Jesus people?
- In our study, the pastor invited us to rebel against the status quo, and then he listed a handful of ways the status quo expresses itself: (1) being crazy busy, (2) prizing privacy of people, (3) preferring polite distance, (4) retreating from messy people (5) simply attending a church without being the church. Which one of these do you think has the biggest tug on you as a person?

- How does embodying the central truth of this passage help us become more fully and truly ourselves, the people God is creating us to be?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- Do you think a church can thrive if people are not devoted to one another? What might a church look like that is not devoted to one another?
- How does this text help us to understand the kind of church Jesus wants MHC to be? Or to put it another way, what does God want to do not merely for us or in us, but through us?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- Reflect together on this quote from John Stott, "God's purpose, we say, is not merely to save isolated individuals, and so perpetuate their loneliness, but to build a church, to create a new society, even a new humanity, in which racial, national, social and sexual barriers have been abolished. People searching for community ought to be pouring into our churches.... For there are Christian communities all over the world where true, sacrificial, serving, supportive love is to be found. Where such Christian love flourishes, its magnetism is almost irresistible.."

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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