

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

5/26/19

Text: Acts 2:42-47

Title: Resurrection - A New Community

Teacher: Brown Peterson

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

Today Brown taught us from Acts 2, just after Peter's sermon to the crowds. As we saw, the early church in acts gives us a glimpse of the beauty of what the church can and ought to be. It is a community of faith, bringing together all different kinds of people from all walks of life, not because of anything they have done or any merit they have gained, but because they have one true thing in common; faith in the Lord Jesus who has called them out of sin and death and made them a new community, a new People. Devoted to worship, to loving their neighbor and to God's mission, God's people are the vessel of His hope, grace and blessing to the world. Against the backdrop of their sinful identities, the very people who demanded the murder of the Son of God are those who God, in His mercy and love, would call to be His church. For it is only God's Spirit that can change the human heart, and make His enemies friends, and make friends into the family and community of God. No matter where they are from, no matter what their competing allegiances, the Church has a better story and a better blessing to share with the world; a God who saves His enemies and makes them His.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. Against our contemporary individualism, Brown said God's people are called to be a community that worships and is devoted to Him.*
 - In your experience, how does being part of a "Community" of faith strengthen or challenge your ability to live a life that's devoted to God?***
- 2. Jesus instructed His disciples to be devoted to God, and out of that devotion, they would then be devoted to their "neighbor" in care, generosity, relationship and love.*
 - What does it look like to try to be devoted to God's people without first being devoted to Him? What is it like to care for broken people in your own strength?***
 - How does devotion to God fuel our devotion to our neighbor?***
- 3. Brown said we're all good at evangelism ("spreading good news"), it just depends on what it is we love. We most readily tell the stories that we're most excited about.*
 - What in this world is most amazing or exciting to you?***
 - How does that thing point to who God is and could be an opportunity to tell about the amazing God who made it?***

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WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)

1. ADORATION (The Father)

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

- *Pray to the Lord that your heart and mind would be in awe of who He is. Pray that the love of the Father, the work of the Son and the power of the Spirit would drive you to worship.*

2. CONFESSION (Me)

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING (Jesus)

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION (Holy Spirit)

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

- *Pray for the work of the church, that we would be a people characterized by love. Pray that your time and resources would not be defined by greed but by generosity.*

5. Prepare for Gospel Community (My Neighbor)

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

- *Pray for the mission of the church to see conversions. Pray that we would be a bold people to love our unbelieving neighbors and for opportunities to talk about the gospel.*