

October 3

## The Church's Activities

Acts 2:37-47

As I read this week's Focal Passage, I stopped in my tracks at the second verse: Peter replied, "Change your hearts and lives" (Acts 2:38). Earlier in this chapter, he had explained that God made Jesus both Savior and Christ. The crowd grew concerned about how they could redeem themselves after the Crucifixion. Peter replied, "Change your hearts and lives." Oh, sure. No big deal. All you have to change is everything. If someone told you that today, would you listen? Or would you ask them to wait until the pandemic is over or you finished the laundry or the big project at work was complete? We're busy. We have a lot going on, packed schedules. Many times, I think we ask Jesus to fit into our lives when it's convenient for us (set a reminder for worship on Sunday). Peter reminds us that's not how it works.

Acts 2:42 tells us what the crowd Peter spoke to did next: The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. The apostles walked away from life as they knew it to follow Jesus. They left their nets on the shore and followed. They let themselves be led by Jesus' teachings. They didn't try to maintain control or steer the situation to their benefit. They devoted themselves to Jesus, and here's what happened when they did: A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved (Acts 2:43-47).

God provides for us, but in order to be called children of God, we must give up being primarily children of the world. We must look to Christ and say, "I will follow you. I will change my heart. I will change my mind. I will change my life and follow you." We don't get to be in charge, but as Scripture shows us, we will reap the benefits of being favored by the one true God.

1. Do you sometimes still try to be in charge when it comes to your relationship with God?
2. If Jesus asked you today to drop your net and follow him, would you do it? Be honest with yourself. Why or why not?
3. In what ways can you change your heart and mind this week to come closer to Jesus?

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