

# 3 RELATIONSHIPS WERE TO BE BALANCED AMONGST 3000

## Acts 2:37-47 ~ GOD – CHURCH – LOST

### ▪ THEY HAD AN AWESOME RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD!

- They had no rule book, no book of worship or prayer book.  
*Acts 2:47* praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.  
*Acts 2:42* "And they were continually devoting (persistent attention) themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."
- They had no commentaries, only the verbal instructions of the apostle (Eph. 2.20).
- Without one handout, the apostles built them into a praising church.
- Why? Because Jesus taught them how. They were **DEVOTED**.
- They were devoted to obeying commands about doctrine, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer. **They knew Jesus was in their presence all of the time. 26,280,000 days ago**  
*Psalm 22:3* Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

### ▪ THEY HAD A DYNAMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER.

- *Acts 2:42* "And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."
- They continually fellowshiped. They were **constantly diligent**. They were 3000 strangers, afraid of one another, skeptical & untrusting at first. They were Jews on vacation.  
*Acts 2:5* Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men, from every nation under heaven.
- They only brought enough money, food & clothes to take them thru the feast. Then, why would they stay on? **The word, brother, the word!**
- These sojourners began to be in real need.
- *Acts 2:45* and they began selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.
- How was it possible for "each one" to "show his need" to the church? They were together all the time.
- *Acts 2:46* And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart.
- They got to know one another, not just superficially. This does not mean the "preachers" got to know everyone.
- They "each one" got to know & to probably ask about needs. Their material "things."
- *Acts 2:44-46* And all those who had believed were together, and had all things in common; (45) and they began selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. (46) And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,
- Why? Because some had no meals otherwise.  
*Acts 4:32-37* And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own; but all things were common property to them. (33) And with great power the apostles were giving witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. (34) For there was not

a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales, (35) and lay them at the apostles' feet; and they would be distributed to each, as any had need. (36) And Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means, Son of Encouragement), (37) and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

▪ **THEY HAD A DYNAMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER THROUGH FELLOWSHIP.**

- **Fellowship** (*koinonia*) involves a deep and mutual sharing, participation, partnership, and communion. **"Fellowship is a Friendly, Familiar Communion."**
- That which is shared becomes the principal factor in an intimate personal affinity.
- **1 John 1:1-3** says that he is declaring what he has seen, beheld, heard, and touched the Word of life in order to provide a common ground of meeting with his readers.
- John's passion is that they shall keep on having fellowship.
- This is only possible when they share with him the reality of the Incarnation.
- It is not just fellowship with himself, as a witness of the incarnation which is at stake.
- It is, more significantly, fellowship with God Himself.
- To deny that God did indeed ... "so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son," is to destroy the only foundation upon which any intimate communion between God and man can be based!
- This friendly and familiar communion is with the Incarnate Word, Whom we know as Jesus, God's Son.

*Heb 2:14* Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same ...

- Do we really hunger over God's word? Can we wait for the taste of the Lord's Supper?
- Do we long to be with one another?
- Do we honestly just love praying with and for each other?
- This is all that they had.
- They went to the ones who had the word.
- There wasn't one scrap of paper to look on:
- The word was written in their hearts.

**2 Corinthians 3:1-2** "You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; 3 being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts."

▪ **THEY BUILT A SAVING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LOST.**

- They at first became the talk of the town.  
*Acts 2:47* praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.
- And they soon became the toast of the town. Every Non-Christian in town was watching & listening to the transactions concerning selling possessions for the needy.
- This is why honesty was so very important (Acts 5:1f).
- The town began talking about the Christians & eventually began talking to them.
- Use wisdom when talking with outsiders.

**Colossians 4:5** Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.

- If we are the "salt of the earth" then let's create a huge thirst.

**Matt 5:13** "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.