

Series: Journey through God's Word
November Messages

Date: 11/2/25

Message: The Church

Foundational Scripture: Acts 1- 4

Message Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

Intro: Look at the world today, it needs the Church to be the Church more than ever. Not just any Church, the Church that is built upon the rock that is Jesus. That is what Peter and the Apostles preached and the Holy Spirit established on the day of Pentecost, Jesus as the King who saves and gives us a new life and a new way to live. Yet what is this Church supposed to look like and do? Let's take a look-

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

This Church is:

- **Intentionally engaged in-** (v.42)
 - **Apostles teaching**
 - **Participation in being disciples**
 - **The Lord's Supper**
 - **Prayer**
- **In Awe of what God is doing-** (v.43)
- **Singular in action and purpose-**(v.44)
 - Sacrificial Generosity - everyone gave sacrificially; not the same amount, and shared their abundance with others and didn't expect anyone to do anything that they weren't willing to do themselves.
- **Living in equality-** (v.45) *[equality definition: they didn't see anybody more or less important/valuable than anybody else]-*
- **Meeting with the intention of Worship-** (v.46) *[praise, adoration and teaching]*
- **Creating community-** (v.46) *[everyone is invited; diversity was created by the church]-*
- **Demonstrating the love of God-**(v.47)
- **Growing in number-** (v.47)

Conclusion: If you truly believe that Jesus is the King who saves us, then surrender to Him today and let the water of baptism in His name be your testimony and pledge of allegiance to His reign in your life.

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Foundational Scripture: *Acts 1–4*

Message Text: *Acts 2:42–47*

Introduction: The Continuation of the Story

The book of *Acts* is not a new story—it's the second half of Luke's story.

Luke's Gospel tells us what Jesus *began* to do and teach.

Acts tells us what Jesus *continues* to do and teach through His Spirit and His people.

That's why *Acts 1:1–2* opens this way:

“In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up...”

So before we see what the Church *does* in *Acts*, we must first understand what Jesus *says* in Luke.

Because what He reveals in Luke becomes what is fulfilled in *Acts*.

1. The Revelation of Christ — Luke's Confession (Luke 9:18–20)

In *Luke 9*, Jesus asks His disciples, “Who do people say that I am?”

They answer, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah.”

But Peter speaks up and says, “You are the Christ of God.”

That statement is the same truth Matthew records in greater detail:

[Mat 16:13-17 ESV] 13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

Luke shows us the **moment of revelation**—Peter seeing Jesus rightly.

Matthew shows us the **meaning of revelation**—Jesus explaining what that confession would produce.

That moment marks the **conception of the Church**:

the truth that Jesus is the Christ, revealed by the Spirit, becomes the rock on which everything else will stand.

2. The Foundation — “Upon This Rock” (Matthew 16:18)

[Mat 16:18 ESV] 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Jesus says, “On this rock I will build My Church.” **(And it’s the first time we hear this word from Jesus or in Scripture and it’s special to a certain group of people)**

He doesn’t say *synagogue*—He says **ekklesia (G1577)**—a term from Greek civic life meaning “a public assembly of citizens called out from their homes to govern the affairs of the city.” Not a Jewish religious one. He bypasses words like *synagogue* or *temple*, signaling that He’s establishing something **new, global, and Spirit-born**, not bound to one ethnic or ritual system.

That’s not a religious crowd; that’s a ruling council.

So Jesus is saying, “*I’m calling you out as citizens of Heaven to exercise My Kingdom authority on earth.*”

As *Philippians 3:20* says, “Our citizenship is in heaven.”

The *ekklesia* is a governing body of the King’s people—called out, called together, and called to carry out the affairs of the Kingdom of Heaven under the authority of Jesus Christ.

And when Jesus says, “On this rock,” He’s connecting two truths:

- In *Matthew 7:24*, the “rock” is obedience to His Word.
- In *Matthew 16:18*, the “rock” is the revelation of who He is.

So the Church is built on both **revelation and obedience**.

Not on tradition, personality, or preference, but on the unchanging truth that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

And He adds, “The gates of Hades will not prevail against it.”

Because Hades could not hold Him (*Acts 2:27; 1 Peter 3:19–20*).

He conquered death, ascended in victory (*Ephesians 4:8ff*), and reigns as Head over His Body, the Church (*Colossians 1:18*).

3. The Fulfillment — The Birth of the Church (Acts 2)

If Luke 9 and Matthew 16 are the **conception** of the Church, then Acts 2 is the **birth** of the Church.

Jesus told them in *Acts 1:5*, “You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now,” and in *Acts 1:8*, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses.”

In *Acts 2*, that promise comes alive.

The Spirit fills the room. Peter preaches the Gospel.

And the same man who once *heard* the revelation now *declares* it publicly.

4. The Response — Becoming the Church (Acts 2:37–47)

Definition: The Church is the assembly of people called out by God through faith in Jesus Christ, built upon the revelation of His Lordship, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and commissioned to represent and advance the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

- No single believer *is* the Church; rather, each believer *belongs to* the Church.
- Just as a single brick isn’t a house, or a single cell isn’t a body, a single believer isn’t “the Church.” The Church exists in the gathered people who share one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one Spirit (*Ephesians 4:4–6*).

Acts 2:37 — They heard and were *cut to the heart*.

Conviction came by the same Spirit who had revealed Christ to Peter.

Acts 2:38 — They asked, “What shall we do?” and Peter said:

“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

They turned, they were baptized, they received.

That’s how discipleship begins.

The Expression — Acts 2:42–47

This is what the Church does. This is who the Church is.

1. Intentionally Engaged (v.42)

They devoted themselves to the:

- To the apostles’ teaching (learning the truth)
- To fellowship (living in community)

- To the breaking of bread (remembering Christ)
- To prayer (relying on God)

And what happened?

Unity, generosity, worship, and growth.

The Word says, “The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

2. In Awe of What God Is Doing (v.43)

Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

They lived with expectation, honoring God’s power rather than taking it for granted.

3. Singular in Action and Purpose (v.44)

All the believers were together and had everything in common.

They walked with one heart, one purpose, one mission.

4. Living in Equality (v.45)

They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

No one was treated as more or less valuable; generosity flowed out of love.

5. Meeting with Intention (v.46)

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.

They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

Worship was both public and personal.

6. Creating Community (v.46)

The Church became a family—diverse, welcoming, relational.

Everyone was invited to belong and be known.

7. Demonstrating the Love of God (v.47)

They praised God and enjoyed the favor of all the people.

Their lifestyle made God visible.

8. Growing in Number (v.47)

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Healthy things grow—by love, by truth, by unity.

Conclusion

The *ekklesia* that Jesus conceived in revelation becomes the *ekklesia* that lives by the Spirit in Acts.

They heard the Word, responded in repentance, and walked in devotion.

And that's still the Church today.

We are the called-out, Spirit-filled, Christ-centered citizens of Heaven,
living out the Kingdom of God on earth until the King returns.

We are not just attendees—we are *ambassadors*.

Not spectators—but citizens of Heaven.

If you believe that Jesus is the Christ,
then the call is the same as it was that day in Acts 2:

Repent. Be baptized in His name. Receive the Holy Spirit.

That's not joining an institution—it's becoming His Church.