

Lesson from the Early Church  
Acts 2:42-47

I. Intro

- A. Talk about Easter plans
- B. We continue with our study in Acts 2
- C. Recap last week:
  - 1. Devote yourself: commit yourself with a resolve that is a spiritual agreement
    - a) This agreement is based upon your worship, love for Christ, and life change
    - b) Be steadfast, immovable in this commitment.
    - c) Seek to surrender yourself to God!
  - 2. 4 things:
    - a) Discipleship
    - b) Fellowship
    - c) Breaking of Bread
    - d) Prayers
- D. Discipleship is not just studying the scriptures and devoting yourself to the truth of scripture, it also includes relationships and prayer.

II. Text: Verses 43-44

- A. And awe (fear)
  - 1. Phobos: fear, terror
  - 2. This word takes the idea away that “awe” simply means excitement.
  - 3. There is something unsettling about this word, and this emotion
  - 4. We realize just how powerless we are.
- B. Came upon every soul: this was a universal feeling, but not a universal response.
- C. And many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles: This is the root cause of the emotional response.
- D. All who believed were together, Had all things in common: The believers came together in heart and community.

III. Point

- A. Awestruck
  - 1. Awesome: a great word, abused by the 1980's
    - a) Everything became awesome...totally awesome.
    - b) Slap bracelets, large bangs, crimped hair...
    - c) Shoulder pads, leg warmers, parachute pants...
    - d) Cabbage Patch Dolls, shoulder mounted stereo systems, and polly pockets...
    - e) Swatch watches, acid washed jeans, and boy bands...
    - f) All referred to as totally awesome, but sadly lacking the standard of awesomeness in reality
  - 2. Being “Awestruck” is kind of exciting at times, but this is referencing something that seems to go deeper than that.
  - 3. The human desire to remain in control, and to not be surprised by events, is a great challenge.
  - 4. Phobos: literally means “Terror” or “Dread”
    - a) How does this work into your perfectly planned life?
    - b) Do you welcome or recoil?
  - 5. When was the last time you were awestruck at the work of God?
    - a) If it's been a while, I invite you to pay attention to what God is doing.
    - b) If you see it regularly, good job!
  - 6. Examples:
    - a) [Mat 14:26 ESV] 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear.

- b) [Mat 28:4, 8 ESV] 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ... 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.
  - c) [Mar 4:41 ESV] 41 And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"
  - d) [Luk 2:9 ESV] 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.
  - e) [Act 5:5 ESV] 5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.
  - f) [2Co 5:11 ESV] 11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.
  - g) [2Co 7:1 ESV] 1 Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.
  - h) [Eph 5:21 ESV] 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.
7. Reverence, Awe, Fear...
- a) This is a beautiful statement about reality.
  - b) We should have a healthy respect for God and His work!
- B. Absolutes
1. Absolute statements:
    - a) Every soul
    - b) All who believed
    - c) All things in common
  2. Absolute statements are hard to live up to, but often appear in scripture:
    - a) [Rom 10:13 ESV] 13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
    - b) [1Co 10:31 ESV] 31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
    - c) [2Co 5:17 ESV] 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
  3. Absolute statements only work with an Absolute God!
    - a) Absolute Truth is only possible because God declared it to be true.
    - b) God is not up for redefining, or renewed identity. Truth is Truth, and will forever be.
- C. Agreement
1. We will find things in our faith that will cause agreement and unified direction.
  2. There is a commonality in following the Lord
  3. There is also diversity in following the Lord
  4. So then, what are the common things that mark the fellowship?
    - a) We agree to serve the cause of Christ
    - b) We help those in need
    - c) We provide nurturing opportunities for discipleship
    - d) We agree on core doctrine
    - e) We have grace on other doctrines that are secondary
    - f) We strive to HONOR THE LORD
  5. The unity of the church was important then, and it is important now!
  6. What brings unity?
    - a) Clear direction from a common goal.
    - b) How is this achieved? By the willful choices and responses of people.
  7. Unity illustration: someone breaking into a line of traffic...
    - a) People who have never spoken, do not know each other, and will never see each other again, can find themselves completely unified in a moment

- b) Let someone try to break into a line of traffic, and without words, direction, or coaching, the entire line of cars obeying the rules will exclude the rule breaker.
- 8. If we can do that in traffic, we can be that in the church!
  - a) Lets be unified in mission
  - b) Lets be unified in direction
  - c) Lets be unified in sacrifice
  - d) Lets be unified in generosity
  - e) Lets be unified in LOVE!

IV. Close