

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR WORLD

## PART 5: A WORLD-CHANGING CHURCH

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 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, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”*

Acts 2:42-47

### WHAT’S DIFFERENT ABOUT A WORLD-CHANGING CHURCH?

*“Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews. Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.”*

*“During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea. This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.”*

Acts 11:19-21, 27-30

### 1. They’re dedicated to giving away extra resources!

*“In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.”*

Acts 13:1-3

### 2. They’re dedicated to expanding God’s kingdom by sending people out!

**We’ve been blessed to be a blessing!**

**Consider:** How is Jesus asking me to be a blessing?

## DAILY MEDITATIONS

*Brief daily Bible studies based on this week’s message*

### This week’s memory verse:

*“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”* Romans 12:4-5

#### Monday

Write down one thing from the sermon that stood out to you. How has that impacted your thinking?

What did you learn about the early Church from the sermon?

Read Acts 2:42-47. List the characteristics of the early Church. How did these qualities help the Church grow?

*Thank God today for the Bible. Thank Him for the people who have gone before you and helped establish and grow the Church. Ask God to use you to continue His plan for reaching out to the world.*

## Tuesday

Read Read Matt. 28:16-20, John 17:20-23 & Acts 11:19-21, 27-30. According to Matthew 28 and John 17 what were Jesus' instructions to the Church?

How was the Acts church struggling to live this out? How were they succeeding?

Write down two ways you can give of your resources to help others experience God's love.

1.

2.

*Thank God today that He has a place for you in the Church. Thank Him for His amazing grace. Pray that you will daily submit your resources to God's control.*

## Wednesday

Read Matthew 4:18-22, Mark 10:28-31, Acts 13:1-3. Have you ever left behind the familiar in order to obey God? What has been the result of that decision?

How did the early Church's obedience to God make an impact?

God's economy is not like the world's - where the world says to hold the best for yourself God says to give it up for eternity and it will be multiplied. How have you seen the truth of this in your life?

*Thank God today that your service can have an impact for eternity. Talk to Him about any areas where you're struggling to obey His leading - especially the areas that involve leaving behind the familiar.*

## Thursday

Read Ephesians 1:1-14 at least twice and soak in these amazing words! Write down the spiritual blessings you have in Christ.

How can understanding all that you enjoy in Christ impact your heart and ministry to others?

*Thank God today for the amazing blessings He has given you. Pray that you'll be a conduit of His blessings to those you cross paths with today.*

## Friday

Read 2 Corinthians 4. Paul was one of the best and brightest in his day and he gave up everything to follow God. What do you learn in this passage about the reality of following God?

How do these verses give you hope? How will you apply them specifically to your life?

*Thank God today that no matter what you encounter in the days ahead God will be with you. Thank Him that your service to Him is never in vain.*

## Saturday

Today polish up that memory verse. Please pray also for services this weekend, that God's presence would be sensed in a powerful way.