

## Acts 2:41-47 – Core Values True North Core Values Series 2018

### How many of you have a GPS or use your GPS on your Phone?

A) How many of you like using a GPS ?

B) I have a love hate relationship with my GPS

1) I love that it can get me to where I need to go especially when I am in territory unfamiliar with

C) I love that you **can preset the voice** – mine is a guys voice from India – sounds like Ravi Z – directions

### Most of the generic voices are in a woman's voice like Siri – Not sure why? Women can be bossy?

A) One guy got his phone – quickly changed the voice to a man's voice – when asked why?

B) I have a woman for a boss at work? And I am married so I have a woman boss at home

1) I just couldn't handle another woman telling me what to do!

C) **GPS in Mr. T's voice – Turn left fool!**

1) Star wars fans – Yoda – or Darth Vader –

D) Bugs bunny – Sylvester – Twitty bird

### So those are things I like about my GPS

A) Things I hate – Mind of it's own

### B) Fwy traffic – Off ramp – on ramp – Clever

1) I think I could get a ticket for this.

C) The worst – turn where there is no street!

1) keeps making you **do U-turns** going around in circles

### Do you ever feel like you are going around in circles in life?

A) Moving but not making in progress? Activity but not direction?

B) Today we are beginning a New Series at CV – True North

C) **True North is a Nautical term – Sailing - Compass**

1) True North is your fixed point in a spinning world - that helps you stay on course as you go!

D) **Your true North Is derived from your most deeply held beliefs, values, and the principles.**

1) It is your **internal compass**, representing who you are at your deepest level.

### IN the Book of Acts the early Church had a set of Core Values – that served as THEIR compass

A) Or the **True North** that kept them moving in the right direction

B) When they kept their focus on these Core Values they did well. – Gospel Flourished

### C) When they lost their focus or True North – the church floundered

1) and lost it's impact and effectiveness

### Application for our lives and our Church today?

A) The way that God leads us in life is not like a GPS where there is **step by step instructions**

B) **But more like a compass – He points us in a direction in this walk of faith –**

C) We move forward – continually looking to the compass **TRUE NORTH**

1) to make sure we are still moving in the right direction

D) The Same Core Values led the early Church **should lead this church –**

1) Our families and each one of our lives –

E) **Result: Personal revival**

1) **Major impact in our sphere of influence**

### Outline for this series: Today – Broad stroke and look at each of these Core Values today

A) In the following 6 weeks we are going to Dive deeply into each one

B) See what we can glean for application and **insight for our church –**

1) Are we on point – each of these – do we need to make any adjustments?

C) **Application for our lives personally –AND for our individual families – as well**

**Our Primary text for this series is Acts 2:41-47**

A) If you have been with us on Wednesday nights we touched on this in a couple of studies

B) Lord spoke to my heart – you need to go over this with the whole Church

C) **Context is the day of Pentecost** – After the Resurrection Jesus instructed the Disciples... to go into Jerusalem

1) The Holy Spirit fell upon them – Baptized by the Holy Spirit –

D) Peter preaches – 3,000 people come to Christ

1) **Instant mega church** – So question – is what do you do with 3,000 brand new babies ?

**That would be no doubt an overwhelming thing for the Apostles –**

A) They go from a small group of 120 meeting in an upper room to 3,000 new converts

B) A couple of weeks later the Lord will add another 2,000 to that number!

C) 5,000 people who don't know anything – they were called to Shepherd these people.

1) How do you do that – what do you do?

**The verses before us today answer those questions**

<sup>41</sup> Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. <sup>42</sup> And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. <sup>43</sup> And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all that believed were together, and had all things common; <sup>45</sup> And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need. <sup>46</sup> And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, <sup>47</sup> Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

**Note the Phrase V.42: And they continued steadfastly**

A) The Phrase continued steadfastly speaks of three main things. {Devotion, commitment, consistency

B) One translation puts it this way “They were **continually devoting themselves to....**”

1) These were their Core Values

C) These were the things that became their True North!

**So they were continually devoting themselves to #1 Teaching: V.42 the apostles' doctrine**

A) Being in the word of God – was a priority!

B) The word doctrine speaks of teaching and instruction.

C) the apostles doctrine or teaching – **what was that?**

1) The NT didn't exist yet – so it wasn't that.

D) I don't think it pertains to the OT either

1) They weren't gathering together to study the law

**So What was their message? - The story of Jesus!**

A) It was the gospel - **the things they learned from Jesus**

B) Don't miss this: At the HEART of the Core Values of the early Church was the **Centrality of Christ.**

C) John's gospel Ch. 6 Jesus gave some challenging teachings – people began to leave – can't handle this

**D) Jesus looked at the Disciples and said: Are you going to leave me to?**

1) Peter answered and said: **Lord where would we go in you are the words of eternal life! John 6:68**

E) They came to understand what Paul would say later - **Acts 17:28 In Him we live and move and have our being!**

**Karl Barth said that Christology is the touchstone of all theology.**

**Christology is the study of the person, nature and work of Jesus**

Herman Bavinck pointedly wrote, “Christ is Christianity itself; He stands not outside of it but in its center; without His name, person and work, there is no Christianity left. In a word, Christ does not point out the way of salvation: He is the way itself.”

**Am I suggesting that we should only study the gospel accounts in the Bible**

A) Absolutely not – but what I am saying is at the heart of all Bible study is Jesus!

B) Hebrews 10:7 said of Christ - In the volume of the book it is written of me

1) The goal of all Bible study is to Know Jesus – grow in our understanding of Jesus – relationship with JESUS

C) The thing we need to understand is that all **six of these core values – relate to the person of Jesus.**

1) The focus of each one is JESUS – this is Crucial to understand.

**So the teaching that they were committed to and focused on was about Jesus**

A) Going over what He had taught them –

John 21:25 Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world **could not contain the books** that would be written.

B) They were **Reiterating his teachings** – like the sermon on the mount

C) No doubt looking back into the OT to see the passages that they had missed – about Jesus

D) Road to Emmaus – Luke 24 – Beginning at Moses he took them through the OT – messiah Suffer

E) We see this over and over again in the sermons that were preached in the book of Acts

1) Peter, Stephen, Paul – they pointed back the OT scriptures revealing how they spoke of Christ

**Paul would put it this way: Colossians 1:26-28** the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.<sup>27</sup> To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.<sup>28</sup> Him we preach.

**Mystery – something that was once hidden that has now been revealed!**

A) The mystery was that many of the OT scriptures pointed to a suffering Messiah – 2 comings

B) **1<sup>st</sup> to Redeem – the 2<sup>nd</sup> to Rule!**

1) The First coming they missed

C) **So now they were going back and connecting the dots**

1) So - Their teachings were not about principles for living – but a person to know – JESUS

**Notice: V.46 They gathered daily in the temple as well as in Houses**

A) There **was a formal (temple)** and an informal (Houses) aspect to it

B) But when they gathered they were gathering together around the study of Jesus

C) The Meeting in houses was born out of necessity  
1) 3,000 new believers from all over the area

D) The believers in Jerusalem opened their homes  
1) **Jesus was all they wanted to talk about**

**App for our church and Lives?**

A) The Reason that we have the saying Simply Jesus on our entry way, Sign, Bulletin, Web site

B) Chair pocket card in front of you- Everything is for Jesus – **His glory**

1) Everything is about Him – growing in our understanding –

C) **Everything is Through Him** – we live and serve through the sufficiency of His grace

1) The Power **He supplies thru his Holy Spirit**

**Put simply – we truly believe that Jesus is the best thing about each one of us.**

A) Like John the B said – I must decrease – so that he can increase.

**B) We are finding that life makes sense and has the most purpose – when Jesus is at the Center**

C) Marriages work – and glorify God when Jesus is at the Center

D) Singleness is impactful when Jesus is at the center of the lives of our single bro/sis

E) In fact - I think those in the early church would love our simply Jesus motto

1) That is exactly how they lived starting out.

**So Core Value #1 – Continued..... teaching – The Word centered about Jesus**

**Core Value #2 of the early church is that they were continually devoting themselves to Fellowship**

A) Fellowship is Koinonia in the Greek – means to share in common

B) Padre fans – Around their love for the Padres

1) **Surfers – surf** – U2 – Joshua tree album

C) Christians gather around our love for Jesus

1 John 1:3 says:

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And **our fellowship** is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

**We come together around a common love for Jesus –**

A) So true Koinonia or fellowship revolves around Jesus.

B) Christian fellowship is not **watching a ball game together or talking baseball – cars/ décor**

1) Nothing wrong with that but don't call it fellowship

C) Fellowship centers around the person of Christ

1) Fellowship is when we stirring each other up....

**Notice <sup>44</sup> And all that believed were together, and had all things common;**

A) Think about that phrase – these were people from different areas – spoke different languages

B) Different economical status – But it says they had all things in Common – REALLY

1) All of the same political persuasion ?

C) Think they all agreed on what to do with the Romans – Zealots

1) Think they all agreed on how to bolster the economy ?

**But the reason that they had all things in common is because the one thing that mattered MOST –**

A) **THEY HAD IN COMMON – JESUS**

B) They believed – He is our life – He is our hope

1) He is the reason we are here – He is what we live for

**C) If you were around in the Jesus people movement – you saw this very vividly**

1) Long hairs Hippie – short hairs – Suits – Holy Jeans – arm in arm – JESUS

D) People who were vastly different in so many ways brought together by a common love and need - Jesus

**We so desperately need to see this again!**

A) Church is becoming divided by age groups

B) Those in the silent Generation – 1925-1945 – don't understand the **Millennials 1980 – 1995**

1) Often vice versa – there is this great disconnect

C) Those like myself in the Baby Boomer Generation try to bridge the gap

1) Try to get those in both groups to appreciate and see the value in the others

D) I feel like I am constantly doing that around here.

**We are I would call a Generational Church**

A) Silent Generation 1925 - 1945

Baby Boomers 1946 – 1964

Gen X – 1965 – 1979

Gen Y Millennials 1980 - 1995

Gen Z – 1996 – 2012

Gen Alpha 2013

B) Generational church – We have all of that

**C) I think that is great especially if we realize that what we have in common is JESUS!**

D) We can learn from each other – Respect each other – grow in Jesus together!

E) No matter what age: We are called as we read in Hebrews **to stir up one another to love and good works –**

1) Love for JESUS – Love for others – and service to others

<sup>44</sup> And all that believed were together, and had all things common; <sup>45</sup> And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need.

A) Connected to the fellowship of the early church was this incredible attitude of giving an generosity

B) How can I come alongside of you to help you in your need?

1) In your walk with Jesus!

C) This core value of the early church led to a consistent building up of the believers

1) Understanding that we need each other – No lone Rangers

**So they continually devoted themselves to #1 the teachings about Jesus**

A) #2 Fellowship around Jesus

### #3 Breaking in Bread- Communion

The breaking of bread – speaks here of gathering together to remember – The Cross

A) Jesus said: As often as you do this – do this in remembrance of Me.

B) The **Message of the Cross** – was central to the early Church

C) Cross is the great equalizer – unifier

1) No matter our background – religious upbringing we are all sinners in need of a SAVIOR

**There is power in the message of the Cross!**

A) Justified – made right with God – Jesus paid the price

B) Freedom in the message of the Cross – Chains of sin broken – chains of guilt broken

1) Bondage of the enemy Broken

C) The focus on the Cross – through communion places the **emphasis on what Jesus has done for us**

1) Not what we need to do for Him

**D) If you have been around here very long – you Know – Focus in our teaching and ministry**

1) Emphasize – What Jesus has done for us – not what we need to do for Him

E) The early Church – didn't want to operate from a performance based acceptance mentality

**That was Judaism – that was the Law!**

A) Jesus established a new covenant – and he connected it to **this memorial of communion**

Luke 22:19-20 19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

B) Key word of the Old Covenant was **Do** – Follow these commands – performance based acceptance

1) We couldn't consistently keep the commandments

C) The key word of the NC is the **word Done!**

1) Jesus cried it is finished – he did it all

D) The OC said – Do this and you will live!

1) The NC cries Live and you will find yourself doing these things

**E) Live in Jesus embrace what He did for you – embrace – His spirit is inside of You**

1) He is there to empower you to follow the Lord

So they gathered around the table of communion to remind themselves – What Jesus did for them!

**Core Value #4 – They were devoted to prayer!**

A) Jesus had taught them in John 15 to Abide in Him – Branch to the Vine – bears fruit

**B) Jesus said there – for without me you can do some things? – no NOTHING**

C) **They embraced that** – as we have been making our way through the Book of Acts Wed nights

1) **We have seen this dependency on Prayer**

D) Talking to Jesus – **seeking Jesus** in prayer was centric to their gatherings / way of life

1) It was the way that they sought to be led by the spirit and empowered by the Spirit

**Prayer is the way we escape the gravitational pull of the flesh and enter God's orbit.**- Mark Batterson

**Prayer kept them in alignment with Jesus and dependent upon him**

A)I am looking forward to digging into this subject in a few weeks – area we can grow in as a fellowship

B)Note V.43 – We see the result of these first four core values

**<sup>43</sup> And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.**

C)The Holy Spirit was moving powerfully in their midst because – of this focus

**D)because they were fixated on Jesus – they were not distracted by other things that hindered the HS**

**When Jesus is our focus – we gather to hear from Him – honor him –**

A)The Holy spirit is free to move in our hearts – this church – our homes – our marriages

B)**Pause right now and ask** – How much of your life is given to these first 4 core values?

C)To put it another way – how much of your life is devoted to learning about Jesus ?

1)Growing in your relationship with Jesus through the word ?

**How much of your friendships really center around talking about Jesus ?**

A) How much of your friendships really center around stirring up one another in JESUS ?

B)How much of your life and time is given to considering the cross of Jesus?

1)Finding your identity in what He has done for you?

C)**And is that reflected in your prayer life?**

D)Good questions to ask ourselves!

**E)The degree to which we are continually devoting ourselves to these things –**

1)we be the degree to which we experience **PERSONAL REVIVAL – think about that?**

**Now in this look at the Core Values of the early church many stop at these 4**

A)But I see two more things in the text that were Core Values of the early Church

B)Two more things that were part of their True North that Kept them moving in the right direction

C)For the sake of time I am only going to mention these two –

1)we will dive in deeper to them in future studies

We see Final two in V. 46-47 <sup>46</sup> So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

**Core Value #5 Worship** – they continued daily in houses and in the temple. – Praising God! V.47

A)The Worship of JESUS was a part of their Core!

B)Notice the emphasis here in v.46 on **gladness and on praise to God.**

1)They were a joyously worshipping church.

**Did you know that the etymology of the word enthusiasm traces it back to the Greek entheos,**

A)Which is a compound of en (meaning in) and theos (meaning God).

**B)So enthusiasm in a biblical sense or it's purest form means that we are filled with God.**

C)When the focus is on what Jesus has done for us – rather than what we need to do for him –

1)**JOY AND GLADNESS – are the RESULT!**

**The Bible exhorts us over and over to praise the Lord with Gladness – Loud singing – playing**

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth:

Make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

Psalms 98:4

Music is too loud – we are just obeying the Bible

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. (Psalm 47:1)

Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious! (Psalm 66:1-2)

Praise Him with stringed instruments... Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals!

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Psalm 150:4-6

**If Jesus showed up we would go Crazy!**

A) Jesus is here! – why do we hold back ?

B) So one of their Core Values was Worship

1) Passionate Praise

Final CV #6 **They were an Evangelistic Church**

A) And the **Lord added** to the church daily such as **should be saved**.

B) When people are excited about Jesus – another natural byproduct is they are going to want to talk about Him!

C) There is **something contagious** about being a part of community that is enthused with Jesus MORE than anything else.

**So these 6 Core Values were the True North that kept the early Church – focused and going**

A) And allowed them- to TURN their world upside down.

B) Wouldn't it be incredible if Vista – **was turned upside down for JESUS**

C) That happens when our Core Values are wrapped around Jesus the way the early Church was.

D) As a Church and our individuals lives

**What are you living for?**

A) What does your life revolve around ?

B) Focused? – or going in circles?

1) Progress? OR hamster on the wheel?