



It's Not (that) Complicated | Jordan McCaslin | 4.23.23

Weekly Study

SHARE

This week Jordan continued our new series, *We the Church* reminding us the mission of God and the invitation he has extends to each of us as he builds his church here on earth. We are here today because of the men and women who took this calling seriously and walked in obedience as an act of devotion to God and his mission.

GROW

Read Acts 2:44-47; Acts 4:32-37

This week Jordan shared with us the *not (that) complicated* way of the calling that God has placed on our lives as we are to simply to love God and love people. How we love others, particularly other Jesus followers, reveals how we love God. John says it straight up, “He who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen” (1 John 4:20) Our love and devotion to each other is an indicator of the place God is holding in our lives. As we read in Acts, these people got it. They knew their relationship with God required devotion as to be sent out to love one another. The people of the early church understood their assignment and just as Jordan reminded us of this week, if they hadn’t responded “yes” to their calling the church wouldn’t be as it is today.

Of all the characteristics of early group of believers that are mentioned in these verses which surprised you and why?

Do you believe what happened in the early church is unique to it or that we should expect to see similar characteristics in our church today?

How has RRC had an impact in its neighborhoods for the Gospel? How can you be of an impact in your neighborhoods for the Gospel?

M O V E

Read Acts 2:42-43; Romans 12:10

As we just read, we see that in the early church with an intentional focus on what was important to them by their devotion to the Gospel and their devotion to each other. Their devotion wasn't just a once-a-week event inside the four walls of a building thing, they took being in community seriously. It wasn't just an occasional event or gathering. It was regular and ongoing. They devoted themselves to each other, and they did it often.

In our culture there is a high value placed on individual desires and shifting the heart posture from a *self-seeking* life to a *others-focused* life can be difficult, yet this is what God uses to move the Gospel forward. As we take our eyes off devotion to ourselves and onto the devotion to the Gospel and others the Lord will move forth his Kingdom allowing us to experience the awe and wonder of his redemption in people.

Devotion to the Gospel and others require sacrifice— sacrificing in time, sharing in experiences, material goods and sharing requires ongoing commitment. It remains devoted in joys and through struggles over the long haul. Doing life together is one of the greatest strengths of biblical community. So today, maybe the best thing we can do is take an honest, lingering look at the way we love God and others. Are we devoted to the Gospel and how are we devoted to the people around us.

How did the early believers view God and each other?

How have you experienced the devotion to one another in your group considering the ways of the devotion of the early church?

In what ways can you invest more in your relationships with God and others?

P R A Y

Pray together in smaller groups and ask the Holy Spirit to give you boldness and a sense of expectation for him to walk with you as you share the Good News of Jesus. Pray for the people in your life who need Jesus to enter in and redeem and restore.