



Approaching God

Read this portion of Psalm 5 and begin with an opening prayer

Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my sighing. Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation. (Psalm 5:1-3)

Are you finding your prayers filled with hope and expectation? Or does something else characterize your spirit in prayer? Start by praying Psalm 5:1-3 out loud, slowly, thinking about the King who considers all of your sighing. Go to him now and ask him to create an expectant heart, and the patience to wait on him in places where you need help right now.

Acts 2:37-47

Passage Introduction:

The newly regenerated, repentant, and baptized saints gathered together and were devoted to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer (v 42). This verse becomes a paradigm for understanding the priority of the church in its expression of worship & group life where the preaching/teaching of God's word, sacrament, fellowship, and corporate prayer. If any church is going to be an authentic church of Jesus Christ, it will feature all four of these activities. If any of these components are missing, there is a critical problem with the church's health.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation

Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words.

My Notes:

Acts 2:37-47 - 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" **38** Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." **40** With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." **41** Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

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.

Questions for Reflection & Meditation

- What does this passage today show me about God for which I can thank or praise him?
- What does this passage tell me about people, myself, my neighbor, or perhaps humanity in general?
- In what ways do each of the four aspects of Acts 2:42 play out in your own church? How can you encourage, and contribute to, each?

Key Takeaway:

What truth do I most need to remember from today's passage? How would this truth change my life if I took it seriously? If this truth were fully alive and effective in your inward being? Why might God be bringing this truth to your attention today?

Close in Prayer:

Think of a person you know who needs to hear the gospel. Ask God for boldness, wisdom, sensitivity and the opportunity to bear witness to them and encourage them towards Jesus.