

# Big Crowd

## Acts 2:41-47

*"So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about 3,000 people were added to them." - Acts 2:41*

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**Main Point:** The first Church points to what we should value today as believers.

**Introduction:** Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

*When have you transported something valuable or fragile that you were worried about the whole time you were driving?*

*If you were planning a party or special event for a group of friends, what elements would you include? How would what they value play a role in your decision?*

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God has entrusted His followers with a valuable message and it is our job to be sure that message reaches its intended audience. Far too often we lose sight of our mission and get caught up in the rat race of life which, in the big picture, doesn't really matter. The first church started with a bang because the disciples picked up where Jesus left off. The leaders of their gatherings had a few things they valued and focused on which touched many. When we strive for the same as a church, we can make a big impact.

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**Have a volunteer read Acts 2:41-47. The first Church valued:**

1) **THE WORD OF GOD.** Have a volunteer read **Acts 2:41-42.**

The first church devoted themselves to the apostles teaching which came from Jesus. Looking back on **Matthew 5-7** (The Sermon on the Mount), what were some of those teachings? How do you see his words brought to life in this passage of scripture from Acts?

Read **Matthew 4:4**. What do you think Jesus meant by this? Why is it imperative that we are devoted to the Word of God?

What are some ways we can show others that we hunger for and value the Word of God in our families, neighborhoods, and work places?

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2) **EACH OTHER.** Read **Acts 2:44-45.**

Considering the context of these new believers and their decision to follow Christ, why would there be many in need? Share a time when you valued someone in need and gave. Why is this so rare today?

As we grow older it's easier to find joy and power when we value others instead of just ourselves. How have you seen this at work in your own life? What are some steps you could take this week to bear one another's burdens?

**Hebrews 10:25** says "let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another." Do you feel valued in our church and small group meetings? What makes you believe that and how can we encourage the spread of that belief?

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### 3) **REACHING OTHERS.** Read **Acts 2:46-47.**

How were the people of the first church reaching others? What was their motivation?

Read **1 Peter 2:12** and **Matthew 5:16**. How do these verses say we can reach others with God's love and message? Share a time when a good deed gave you a window to share with someone.

Ultimately we want people to discover that VillageChurch loves God and loves people. Can people look at your actions and tell you love God? What story does your face typically tell those you might be trying to reach?

### **Apply It:**

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If you have surrendered to Jesus' leadership in your life then there are a few things you should value as a believer: the Word of God, the people around you in this fellowship, and those who are lost and need reaching. What things have you valued above those? Which priorities need shifting to put these at the top of your list?

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### **Pray:**

Father, you have shown us the desire of your heart for our church and community. May we be the living representation of your Church by showing others we care about them and placing a high value on living in and on your Word daily. Give us courage to do what's right and necessary to reach those who are lost!

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### **Coming up at VillageChurch:**

**May 13th** - Mother's Day: Baby Dedication, VillageKids Choir singing