

## **Ecclesia: Be the church**

### **Acts 2:42-47**

#### **SERMON POINTS**

- Purpose and Community
- Problem of Community
- Power of Community

#### **KEY TAKEAWAY →**

Christians are called out of isolation and called into community. Christians are called out of consumerism and called into commitment #bethechurch

#### **QUESTIONS:**

**Q:** Have you ever experienced isolation? What was it like? Why is isolation so difficult for people?

**Q:** Why are we so hard wired to have other people in our lives?

**Q:** We are created for community, but finding and experiencing can be difficult. What are some obstacles to community for our society? What are obstacles for you finding community?

**Q:** How do you think consumerism has affected the local church?

**Q:** In the sermon Scott emphasized that there is a correlation between spiritual growth (sanctification) and loving the church and being committed to a church. Have you seen examples and evidence of that reality? Why is it so?

**Q:** At New Valley we want to make it easy for people who have been hurt by the church or who don't yet know Christ to love the church and commit to a church. What type of things help create that type of culture?

## QUOTES:

**Brett McCracken (Uncomfortable: The awkward and essential challenge of Christian community):** “But if we always approach church through the lens of wishing this or that were different, or longing for a church that “gets me” or “meets me where I’m at,” we’ll never commit anywhere. But church shouldn’t be about being perfectly understood and met in *our* comfort zone; it should be about understanding and knowing God more, and meeting him where *he’s* at.”

**Scott Sauls (JESUS OUTSIDE THE LINES):** “Jesus loves his church at her best and at her worst. He laid down his life for her (John 10:11). He will never leave or forsake her (Hebrews 13:5). He will complete the work he started in her (Philippians 1:6). In other words, Jesus never looked for more of God by having less of the church. Instead, *he married her*. The church is the chosen, beloved bride of Christ. What does it say about us if the church is good enough for the Father to adopt, for the Spirit to inhabit, and for Jesus to marry . . . but not good enough for *us* to join?”

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

-Connection coffee • 15 minutes after services on October 22 • meet leaders at New Valley and find out how to enter into community further.

-Intro to New Valley • Saturday, October 21 at New Valley • 8am – noon • find out about what we believe as a church and what we ask members to commit to. This is the first step to membership but you are not obligated to join the church if you attend. Childcare is provided, please register online.

-We have several opportunities to serve, especially when we move to the new building next month. Email [amanda@newvalleychurch.org](mailto:amanda@newvalleychurch.org) if you are able to help. We will need lots of help on November 12<sup>th</sup> to physically move things to the new building after morning services as well.