



Decade of Availability Breaking Bread

Church: *Being to each other what
He has been to us!*

The church as it was meant to be in Acts is made up of people who were devoted to four things.

Acts 2:41-47 (NKJV)
41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

Teaching
42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

Fellowship
44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,
45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

Breaking Bread
46 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,

Prayer
47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

A. Teaching *vv. 42; 43 (See message # 7)* The Church is "...built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." *Eph. 2:20*

B. Fellowship *vv. 42; 44-45 (See Message #8)* In the Church there is, "...one body, and one spirit...one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and father of all..." *Eph. 4:4-6*.

C. Breaking of Bread *vv. 42; 46*

*And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life.
He who comes to Me shall never hunger,
and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." John 6:35*

1. Why bread? The symbolism of bread in the Bible is rich in meaning. In Jewish practice, bread was broken when God was blessed at the start of a meal. In the Gospel of Luke:

Jesus pictured God's coming reign as a feast (*Lk 13:29*)
Jesus broke the loaves when he fed the five thousand (*Lk 9:16*)
Jesus broke the bread at the Last Supper (*Lk 22:19*)
Jesus broke the bread at Emmaus (*Lk 24:30*)
Jesus was revealed "in the breaking of the bread" (*Lk 24:35*)

2. Love feasts: They were still following the Jewish custom of meeting in the Temple but then they engaged in 'community' around a meal and in homes. John 13 details the full 'love feast,' feet washing and communion which may have been normative for several years in the early Church. John 13:1 says,

"Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end."

3. Road to Emmaus: *Luke 24* There are two roads that are metaphors for mission. One is the road to **Emmaus** (*Luke 24*) which represents '**process or conversational**' evangelism/ministry. The other is the road to **Damascus** (*Acts 9*) which represents '**event or confrontation**' evangelism/ministry. In both cases Jesus reveals Himself. In one He does it when bread is broken and the other when a person is broken.

*The Village Church mission of praying for strangers, neighbors and friends
'mostly' follows the Emmaus road model.*

4. Eating with gladness: They were glad for the food but mostly for what God was doing in adding to the church daily and what He was doing in knitting them together as a Church.

Are you willing to share a meal of gladness with someone this month?

Invite someone into my home
 Invite for lunch

Invite for coffee
 Take a meal or food gift to someone

D. Prayer *vv. 42; 47 (See message # 10)*