

Let the Church be the Church: A Worshipping Community

Acts 2.46-47a

July 2, 2006

In our study of the Book of Acts, we have been looking at some of those characteristics or attitudes of the early church that allowed them to impact their world in a profound way. We have seen for the Church to be the Church, it was:

- A Believing Community, Acts 2.37-41
- A Devoted Community, Acts 2.42
- A Community in Awe, Acts 2.43
- A United Community, Acts 2.44
- A Generous Community, Acts 2.45

This morning, we want to look at the sixth of those characteristics.

- **A Worshipping Community, Acts 2.45**

Our challenge today, as in any other day, is to be faithful to the Scripture. Think about this. If we did not have any previous tradition, no denominations, or anyone to tell us how to do things; if all we had was the Bible, how would we do church? I know that we would do things differently, but that is the point! We should be doing things because we have been informed by the Bible rather than by traditions; however, well intentioned. In the early church, we have a wonderful example of the way they came together as a church.

*“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**, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.” Acts 2.46-47a*

Notice the emphasis here on gladness and on praise to God. They were involved in joyous worship, so should our worship be. Of course, the worship of these early Christians was nothing new to them. They did not invent something new. They were informed by another Biblical tradition, from what we call the Old Testament. It was the only Scriptures they had.

Psalm 33.1-3; 47.1; 66.1-2; 95.1-3; 98.4-6

*“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.” Psalm 100*

Psalm 149.3; Psalm 150

*“I hate, I despise your religious feasts;
I cannot stand your assemblies.
Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them.
Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.
Away with the noise of your songs!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.
But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!” Amos 5.21-24*

“Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: ‘Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!’” Revelation 5.11-12