

Devotion: Thursday, April 30, 2020

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Quarantine Day: 45

Does anyone else talk to their cereal box in the morning?

Debbie's alarm goes off at 0430 and she leaves for work at 0600, which leaves me plenty of time to talk to Tony, or those triplets, Snap Crackle and Pop. When I was younger I used to talk to that Lucky Charm guy, but the older I got, the less magically delicious he was.

You know, it is OK to talk to your cereal box in the morning, especially during this coronavirus era.

It looks like we may be eating alone for awhile.

And I don't like that.

Don't get me wrong, I talk to Debbie at dinner, but it would be nice to have my kids, and grandkids together. Same with church. I miss the pot luck dinners, the 1000 calorie coffee hours, the conversation and fellowship, to the breaking of bread ..." (v. 42). "*They broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts*" (v. 46).

And I think it is very cool that we believers do this without being told every Sunday.

We have always loved to be together.

Of course, this time together is not always focused on talking about religious matters or our faith journeys. Sometimes, we talk about the stock prices or sports. One can imagine the early Christians gossiped about what the local governors might do next.

And this is one of the "norms" that we have taken for granted. We Christians who are involved in a community of faith enjoy drinking coffee, eating cookies and cake, and fellowship that it would be cause for alarm if — if in our congregations — the reverse were true: that the members of the congregation didn't particularly like each other, and didn't really care to spend time with one another.

The larger point, however, is that many Christians in fact, do *not* like each other. This is often influenced by factors that go beyond our faith in Jesus Christ.

These days, a Christian who is on the wrong side of the political fence, the religious fence, the worship-style fence, the liberal-conservative divide, the economic fence, or from the wrong side of the tracks or the border — well, that's going to be a problem.

It's an unfortunate reality that 2,000 years after the Christians to whom Luke referred in our text met for potluck, we have erected fences and barriers that make it difficult for the body of Christ to be one. We prefer to keep our distance from those Christians unlike ourselves. Some religious traditions will not allow other Christians to even participate in holy communion. Others have established rules and regulations based on political and social issues.

Yet, the ideal for us as Christians is demonstrated in this text: People of faith should be able to sit down and break bread together. In peace.

We need that.

But, right now we wait.

We sit down at our tables and break bread for one, or two, or three if the Kellogg triplets show up.

Let us pray:

*Come Holy Spirit, come.
Come as the fire and burn,
Come as the wind and cleanse,
Come as the light and reveal,
Convict, convert, consecrate,
And make us glad in thy service. Amen.*

Stay safe

Pastor Jack