**Dream Again, Lessons from the Book of Acts**

**Vintage Church: Acts 2:42-47**

February 6, 2016

Introduction:

* Stephen King: “I'm not a vampire type, when somebody shows me the cross. …But organized religion gives me the creeps.”
* Stuart Briscoe: “How can you be totally committed to Jesus Christ if you’re not totally committed to what He’s totally committed to?”
* Acts 2:40 Save yourselves from this crooked generation.

1. Devotion is the glue of a vintage church. (Acts 2:42)

A. Devotion to the apostle’s teaching

* 1 Timothy 4:16 Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.
* 2 Timothy 1:14 By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

B. Devotion to the fellowship.

* Fellowship isn’t just being together but sharing our lives with other people.

C. Devotion to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

* Hospitality, communion and dependence on God marked the early church.

Q. Do you see teaching as something to be “watched” and “guarded”? How can we do that?

Q. What are some of the ways that a Christian can express devotion to fellowship?

Q. In which of the four areas listed in v.42 do you most struggle to be “devoted”? Why? What’s a step you could take to help you move forward in that area?

2. Generous community is the beauty of a vintage church.

(Acts 2:44-47)

A. Do you share your possessions?

* V.44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

B. Do you share your time?

* V.46 And day by day, attending the temple together
* When GQ magazine asked basketball star Kobe Bryant if he had any friends Bryant said, I have "like minds.”

C. Do you share your home?

* V.46 breaking bread in their homes

Q. What are some of the things that would have motivated such radical generosity among the new converts?

Q. What are some things that have helped motivate your generosity?

Q. Which of the three areas (possessions, time, your home) do you most struggle to share? Why? What’s a step that you could take to move forward in that area?

3. Awe is the fire of a vintage church. (Acts 2:43)

A. Awe describes a person’s reaction to great power.

* Mark 4:41 And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”
* John Piper: “Today for most people, … God is an idea to talk about, or an inference from an argument, or a family tradition to be preserved. But for very few people is God a stark, fearsome, stunning, awesome, shocking present REALITY. He is tame. He is distant. He is silent. Where are the churches of whom Luke could say today, "Fear―awe, wonder, trembling―is upon every soul"?”

B. Awe gives us strength to resist sin.

* Exodus 20:20 Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.”
* Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

C. Awe is what marks a true believer

* Exodus 9:30 But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the Lord God.
* Jeremiah 32:40 I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.

Q. What would a church filled with “devoted” people but no fear of God look like? What’s wrong with that?

Q. When have you most felt the fear or awe of God?

Q. How can you cultivate a healthy fear of God in your life?

Q. How could your group or our church cultivate awe?

**Notes:**