

“Run the Race: Love People”

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – September 30, 2012

Acts 2:37-47

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call." 40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46 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, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

MOTHER TERESA

Missionaries of Charity – Calcutta, India

1950-1997 (until her death at 87)

- At the time of her death had 610 missions in 123 countries ministering to orphans, the poor and hungry, people with HIV/AIDS, leprosy and tuberculosis.

What can we learn from our text today about Loving People?

I. **WE LOVE PEOPLE BY LOVING GOD FIRST**

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

2. **WE LOVE PEOPLE BY KNOWING GOD'S WORD**

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching ...

3. **WE LOVE PEOPLE THROUGH FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNION**

42 They devoted themselves to ... the fellowship, to the breaking of bread...

4. **WE LOVE PEOPLE BY PRAYING FOR THEM**

42 They devoted themselves ... to prayer.

5. **WE LOVE PEOPLE BY SACRIFICIAL GIVING**

44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

6. **LOVING PEOPLE PRODUCES FRUIT**

46 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, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

FRUIT:

- Joy for Life “*glad and sincere hearts*”
- Praise for God “*praising God*”
- Favor of People “*enjoying the favor of all the people*”
- Numerical & Spiritual Growth “*the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*”