

I Will Build My Church
PART 3: THE CHURCH'S PRIORITIES
Acts 2

The glory of the gospel is that when the church is absolutely different from the world, she invariably attracts it.
-Martin Lloyd Jones

I. What We Practice

II. What We Produce

Into the Bible:

1. In the Middle East breaking bread, the practice of hospitality is much more than just welcoming someone. Feeding someone who visits you is essential. Symbolically it is “graciously receiving an alienated person (one who is an outsider, potentially even an adversary, one who is of lesser social rank) into one’s home or community and providing for their needs. Jesus claimed the title of the “Bread of Life”. When he tells his disciples at the last supper while breaking the bread, “This is my body broken for you”, what is he inviting them into? (Ephesians 2:14, Hebrews 10:20)

2. Why does food matter beyond just eating for the practices of the church? The early church met frequently for teaching. Think about how many teachable moments Jesus had over a meal with people. What lessons did he communicate in these situations? (Luke 5:27-32, Luke 7:36-50, Luke 9:10-17, Luke 14:1-24, John 21:12-17)

3. Miracles were much more common in the early church. What seems to be the connection between the “signs and wonders” done by the apostles and the addition of new converts? (Acts 5:12-16, Acts 4:7-11, Acts 2:22) Why would these miraculous occurrences be particularly needed prior to the written New Testament being available widely?

4. How does the early church in Acts provide us with an example of joy and peace despite circumstances like persecution, imprisonment, and scarcity of earthly resources? What should be our security and source of joy during hard times? (Romans 12:10-16, Romans 8:1-3)

For Families:

5. Talk with your children about how Jesus always provides for our needs.