

T H E R E F O R E

January 9, 2021

Acts 1 & 2

Humans are designed to live in packs. ‘How’ matters.

While there are some creatures designed to live in pairs or even in a solitary existence like bears, we are designed to travel in packs like wolves. Our strength is in our numbers. When we use our extraordinary ability to communicate and problem-solve together we can do tremendous things. However, people working together don't always do things that bless them. In the earliest accounts of human history recorded in the Bible we are told that people began to build a soaring tower so that they would “make a name for themselves.” God saw this and said, “**Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another’s speech.**” The earth is littered with pyramids and great crumbling structures that all represent whole civilizations that don't exist anymore. The same will be true for us if we don't learn how to ‘do community’ in the way that God designed us for.

THINK IT OVER

Have you ever experienced a deep sense of unity within a big group of people?

Acts 1:2 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. 4 All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

1) Jesus teaches us to _____ one another. (be with)

THINK IT OVER

How have you noticed yourself becoming like the people you spend time with?

2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—in

our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." 12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

2) Jesus restores our power to _____ and gives us passion to build _____. (communicate, God's kingdom)

THINK IT OVER

Who have you had a hard time communicate with? How might sharing a passion unify you?

37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" 38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." 40 And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

3) Being a follower of Jesus means _____ with others in the most powerful way imaginable. (uniting)

THINK IT OVER

How could your connection with others look more like the description of the first disciples?

43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 Day 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, 47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

4) Jesus changes everything about our life by giving us the joy of true _____ with each other. (unity)

THINK IT OVER

Who do you feel God is calling you to 'break bread' with?