

Rev Dave Rohde

For Sunday, November 20th
"Gather & Grow"

Deuteronomy 31:1-13 – NIV

Then Moses went out and spoke these words to all Israel: ² "I am now a hundred and twenty years old and I am no longer able to lead you. The Lord has said to me, 'You shall not cross the Jordan.'³ The Lord your God himself will cross over ahead of you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you will take possession of their land. Joshua also will cross over ahead of you, as the Lord said. ⁴ And the Lord will do to them what he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, whom he destroyed along with their land. ⁵ The Lord will deliver them to you, and you must do to them all that I have commanded you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

⁷ Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the Lord swore to their ancestors to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance.

⁸ The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

⁹ So Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the Levitical priests, who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and to all the elders of Israel. ¹⁰ Then Moses commanded them: "At the end of every seven years, in the year for canceling debts, during the Festival of Tabernacles, ¹¹ when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose, you shall read this law before them in their hearing. ¹² Assemble the people—men, women and children, and the foreigners residing in your towns—so they can listen and learn to fear the Lord your God and follow carefully all the words of this law. ¹³ Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the Lord your God as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess."

Acts 2:42-47 – NIV

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who 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.

Gathering & Growing

- Devotion to the apostles teaching
- Devotion to a "a common life"
- Commitment to "breaking bread"
- Commitment to prayer

Results of Devotion and Commitment to Growing and Gathering

- Filled with awe (Acts 2:43)
- A sense of unity (Acts 2:44)
- Needs were met (Acts 2:45)
- Numerical growth (Acts 2:47)

Takeaway: Each of our individual journeys are enhanced by our devotion to gathering together and our commitment to continual growth.

Questions:

1. Acts 2:42-47 talks quite a bit about devotion and commitment. What would be the top 3 or 4 commitments that take up most of your time today?
2. What's the biggest difference between the church Luke describes in Acts and the church in today's world?
3. What are the practices you participate in to help you grow in faith each, and every, day?
4. How might WPC do a better job of helping you to grow in faith?

Sermon: <https://podcast.wpcwestlake.org/services/mp3/sermon20221120.mp3>

Service Video: <https://youtu.be/RqbzclLuHhGI>