

The Book of Acts // Episode 5

Acts 2:38-42

Devotion to Jesus is not optional.

You devote better with others who are devoted.

Psalm 133 “A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem. A psalm of David. How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony! For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil that was poured over Aaron’s head, that ran down his beard and onto the border of his robe. Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon that falls on the mountains of Zion. And there the Lord has pronounced his blessing, even life everlasting.”

You cannot be devoted without sacrifice.

John Piper hits this hard when he writes,

The greatest enemy of hunger for God is not poison but apple pie. It is not the banquet of the wicked that dulls our appetite for heaven, but endless nibbling at the table of the world. It is not the X-rated video, but the prime-time dribble of triviality we drink in every night. For all the ill that Satan can do, when God describes what keeps us from the banquet table of his love, it is a piece of land, a yoke of oxen, and a wife (Luke 14:18–20). The greatest adversary of love to God is not his enemies but his gifts. And the most deadly appetites are not for the poison of evil, but for the simple pleasures of earth. For when these replace an appetite for God himself, the idolatry is scarcely recognizable, and almost incurable.

Luke 9:57-62 “As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, “I will follow you wherever you go.” But Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head.” He said to another person, “Come, follow me.” The man agreed, but he said, “Lord, first let me return home and bury my father.” But Jesus told him, “Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead!* Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God.” Another said, “Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family.” But Jesus told him, “Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.”

Devotion is revealed through an audit of your time, talents, & treasure.

John 17:3 “And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.”

(1) TEACHING

(2) FELLOWSHIP + COMMUNION

κοινωνία (koinōnia): fellowship, communion, sharing, participation. A term that conveys a sense of commonality, solidarity, and shared responsibility among households or individuals.

(3) PRAYER

PRACTICING THE WAY

As disciples of Jesus, we know our allegiance to Him as King is expressed in our daily practice. We are not pursuing perfection but want to practice our faith each day. These practices will point you toward spiritual formation as an apprentice (disciple) to Jesus.

Start the Fresh Start Pathway with a friend.

Read the Gospel of Luke.

Talk it Over (with friends, a spouse, or connect group)

- Read Acts 2:38-42. What do you notice within this passage?
- Look up the definition of the word “devoted”. Discuss the meanings as a group. What are some positive or negative examples of devotion?
- Read Psalm 133. What are some truths this Scripture communicates?
- What are some things you spend lots of time, talent, or treasure on?
- The main passage revealed three major areas of devotion: Teaching, fellowship, & prayer. On a small of 1 to 10 (1 being heathen, 10 being Jesus) where is your devotion level on each of those three? What is one goal you want to set to improve?