



The Beginning of Jesus Ekklesia

Brent Moody · Acts 2:42–47 · Series: **The Way Forward**

INTRODUCTION

- What I really want us to work on is coming at the text with fresh eyes, letting the text challenge us, surprise us, or even correct us when we haven't thought about things the right way.
- What we're going to be looking for are timeless truths, observable principles and practices that we see the first century disciples using in their life.
- If a first century believer walked into our assembly today, or if a first century believer followed me around day to day in my daily life, would they recognize that what we're doing is the same faith?

1 Upon This Rock I Will Build My Ecclesia

Acts 1:1–5; Matthew 16:16–18

- Peter speaks up and says, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.
- He says, You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my ecclesia.
- Jesus promised he was going to build a community of people who were going to follow him. This is where all of this begins.
- I think the rock is that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, He is the Messiah.

2 What Does Ecclesia Mean?

Matthew 16:18; 1 Chronicles 28:8

- The ecclesia is a covenant community.
- Ecclesia is about belonging, it's about an identity and connection with something. It's about belonging and not merely attending.
- The people who belong to God are called the ecclesia. You belong to God, you are part of the ecclesia.
- When you leave this place this morning, you are still part of the ecclesia, even though you were not literally physically assembled.
- It's not just a worship service. That is something that happens because you are part of something bigger than that.

3 He Is Reigning, the Head of All Authority

Acts 1:9–11

- He is ascended, and now he is at the right hand of the throne of God. He is reigning. He is not an absent ruler.
- There is a kingdom. He's the king of that kingdom, and we submit and we follow his will.
- And so he is the head of all authority, and it is to him that we submit.

4 A Spirit-Empowered, Gospel-Formed Community

Acts 2:1–4; Acts 2:38

- This is not something that humans decide and come up with. Jesus' people, his community has a spirit-empowered origin.
- Peter tells them they need to repent, and each of them need to be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins, and they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Baptism is also a visible, tangible way in which you enter into the people of God.
- This is not a choice that is done out of convenience. It's not something that's done part time.
- It is a community that is spirit and empowered, but it's also gospel formed. It's the message that is changing people.

5 They Devoted Themselves to the Apostles' Teaching

Acts 2:42–47; Luke 24:35; Acts 20:7–11

- They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
- The idea of devotion here is giving themselves fully over to this new community, this new group, in the fullest sense.
- This is essentially the idea you're enrolled. Like you are in their school of learning.
- Fellowship is also a verbal noun. It's something that's active. It's something you do together.
- The breaking of bread, likely here, has to do with what we often call the Lord's Supper, or I would call the Lord's meal.
- And then the prayers. It's very clear they spend time together speaking to God.

THE CHALLENGE

What kind of effort am I making to make you that much of a part of my life? Where I want to spend time worshiping with you, eating with you on a regular basis, sharing daily lives, sharing our new life together in Christ.

MY NOTES
