

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 21st March 2021
Sermon Title: Purpose: the things we do
Bible Passage: Acts 2: 41 - 47

Recapping the Preach

Throughout March we will be exploring the 4P's for KBC: prophecy, priorities, purpose and pursuits as we reset our focus as a faith family. Previously we have looked at Prophecy and Priorities and this week we will be focusing on PURPOSE: the things we do, which is captured in our Purpose statement (previously mission statement)

'Kingswood Baptist Church is a fellowship of Christians committed to being and making disciples of Jesus Christ'

Stu began with a brief backdrop of Acts 2: 41 - 47 as passage we have reflected on in depth during last year.

- What stood out to you from this passage?
- List the different things the church did in Acts 2:41-47? What did God do?
- *'The church primarily exists and its primary purpose is to meet the needs of the community'* Stu pointed out that this is incorrect - would you agree or disagree with the statement? Why?

In brief our purpose: the things we do, as a church can be broken into three sections which must stem from the priority of worship and glorifying God.

Being family: a fellowship of Christians

- Stu mentioned a sequence: the believers encountered the love of God, were united by the gospel and the Spirit and that compelled them to love one another. How important do you think this sequence is?
- Make a list of 'one another' passages that you are familiar with? What do these teach us?
- 'being family' creates the context where people can grow as disciples and on mission. Do you agree?
- Discuss the following statement - do you find it challenging, true or not your experience. *'Many churches do not share the gospel effectively because their communal experience of the gospel is too weak and tasteless to be worth sharing. It does not excite the believer to the point where he wants to witness and it is not all that attractive to the unbeliever. But where Christian fellowship demonstrates the gospel, believers become alive and sinners get curious and want to know what the secret is. So true Christian community becomes both the basis and the goal of evangelism'*
- What one thing could you start doing to encourage the building of family at KBC?

Being disciples: committed to being disciples

- Stu pointed out that the Acts 2 church was a learning community and the key factor was they were **intentional** about learning. How intentional are you? What stops you from being intentional in your learning?
- Following are some reasons quoted by authors of books about discipleship and highlight some challenges - do you agree these are problems? What can be done to alleviate them?

- (1) Pastors becoming number driven and so focus more on keeping people happy with bums on seats rather than upsetting the apple cart and expecting growth
- (2) The bar gets set too low in terms of what we expect from disciples - if we offer any expectations at all. To easily excuse people lack of growth, instead of exercising gentle discipline and having hard conversations
- (3) Church is distracted meeting the community needs that it fails to devote the time, resources and energy in growing people before sending them out
- (4) Not even sure what discipleship would look like today and happy to settle for passive consumers rather than raising and equipping active contributors
- (5) We try to disciple en-mass where Jesus was model was much smaller in number.
- Stu said we need to be gripped by the awe and wonder

Making disciples: *committed to...making disciples*

- What similarities (if any) are there between Isaiah 54:1-5 and Acts 2:41-47?
- Discuss the following statement - do you agree/disagree. What examples in the book of Acts uphold this statement? *'the book of Acts is governed by one dominating, overriding and all-controlling motif. This motif is the expansion of the faith through missionary witness in the power of the Spirit...Restlessly the Spirit drives the church to witness, and continually the churches rise out of witness. The church is a missionary community'*.

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- Is there a purpose you need to grow in?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
- Pray that everything about our life together as a church would flow from a place of worship.
- Pray that we would love one another deeply, creating the context to grow in faith and mission.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>