

## Series: Hilarious Faith

### Lesson 3: “Hilarious Faith is Powered by Devotion”

\*Announcements, encouragement to invite people and opening prayer.



**Connect:** an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** What do you think of when you hear the word, “devotion”?

**Transition:** Today we are going to look at a devotion that can revolutionize the life you live and even the lives of those around you. If you want to be part of the answer to Jesus’ prayer, “Father, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” we are going to learn some critical principles.

**Bottom Line:** The more you dive into your faith, the more hilarious your faith becomes and more influential your life will be for Christ.

#### LESSON PLAN

**Background:** Peter has just preached the first sermon in the New Testament Church effectively unlocking the door to salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. It was so powerfully received that the people cried out, “What shall we do?” Peter then told them that they would receive the Holy Spirit of God if they would repent and be baptized into Jesus’ name for the forgiveness of their sins. 3,000 people came forward and were baptized to be baptized. Some probably headed to the Pool of Siloam immediately south of the Temple enclosure. It is still used today to immerse believers. Others may have gone to the Upper Gihon, which is 20’ deep and others to the Lower Gihon just west of the city which is 592’ long. The Pool of Bethesda and the Pool of Hezekiah were also within the city walls. Then we see the effects of this hilarious faith within this great crowd of new believers in Christ.

#### Read Acts 2:42-47

It’s important to note that this was the day the church began. They had no buildings, no organization, no rigid structure. They were just ecstatic to be set free and to find forgiveness and grace from God. That joy exploded with a holy reaction. Let’s see what happened.

1. What verb, action word, is used to describe their behavior?



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**Question:** What are some of the things that you would grasp tightly if you have a head on your shoulders that works?

2. What is the first thing the 3,000 new Christians were glued or devoted to?

**Question:** Do you think a Christian can simply listen to a sermon and truly be devoted to the teachings of Christ? Why or why not?

3. What is the second thing the 3,000 new Christians were glued or devoted to?

*Fellowship. This word is often translated “communion.” It means having things in common or participating in a common cause. It can include offerings to the poor or for mission work to spread the gospel. Fellowship points to a common interest and joint participation in anything that concerns the welfare of each other. They were devoted to community and outreach. There were devoted to truly being the family of God.*

**Question:** What fellowship is our church family devoted to?

4. What is the third thing the 3,000 new Christians were glued or devoted to?

*This wording is sometimes used of the common meal and sometimes for the Lord’s Supper. The Greek reads, “THE breaking of THE bread.” This would point to the Lord’s Supper rather than simple fellowship meals. The early church writers point to the fact that worship included preaching and the Lord’s Supper. There was a devotion to doing this act in remembrance of Christ’s sacrifice for us as Jesus had instructed.*



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**Question:** The Lord’s Supper can become a motion or ritual we go through. That should never be the case. What do you do to emphasize your devotion to the Lord’s Supper?

5. What is the fourth thing the 3,000 new Christians were glued or devoted to?

**Question:** Do you think we can honestly say we are continually devoting ourselves to prayer? Why or why not?

**Question:** What could we do to give prayer the equal emphasis in our Christian life that the early church gave it?

To be continually devoted to something makes you hilarious about it. This devoting reflected the pattern of early worship and Christian community. It does make you wonder how anyone could accept Christ as Lord and yet not be devoted to this worship and spiritual growth with a family of believers. To refuse to build a fellowship, a faith community with other disciples would be to reject the pattern and teaching of the Apostles that brought about incredible blessings and numeric growth within the body of Christ!

6. What else was involved in the new community of disciples?

7. Where did they meet together every day and what was the purpose of their meeting?

*For years the Jewish Christians would go up to worship at the Temple. They kept their Jewish relationships alive. This practice was said to have continued until the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70. They would also meet as believers on the first day of the week to worship together. This was the day of Christ’s resurrection.*

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**Question:** What do we do to keep our past relationships alive?

**Question:** Our past relationships are a rich source for evangelism. How could we better nourish those relationships for Christ?

8. What was the result of their lifestyle of devotion and outreach?

**Read Acts 4:32-37**

9. Describe the unity of the early Christians that caused God to richly bless and multiply them.

**Question:** What keeps Jesus' body today from having one heart and mind?

**Question:** Do you think Christians today have more of a heart or a mind issue?

**Question:** What can we do to correct our failure to be one heart and mind?

10. What was the focus of the Apostles' message that created such great power and grace?

**Question:** How does the modern day church fall short in that area?

11. The American Christians give an average of 2% of their income to the church to build the Kingdom of God on earth. What lesson should we learn from this passage?

*It is no wonder God isn't adding to our numbers daily. We spend more time on crunching budgets to keep the church door open and putting out fires from divisiveness than we do declaring the power of the resurrection to transform us both now and forever! Money and*



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*unity should not be the focus of the church if we understand true Christianity! We have misplaced our devotion. When we return to loving unconditionally and giving sacrificially we will have a hilarious faith that blows open the doors of the church like God has done in the past!*

**Breakout Group or Discussion Time:** *(This would be an excellent topic for group discussion at tables and then come back together to share the power of the resurrection and what it means for our daily lives.)*

**Final Question:** What is the one idea that stands out to you most from this lesson?