

**SERMON NOTES: MAY 26<sup>TH</sup>**  
**SCRIPTURE READINGS... ACTS 2: 37-47**

**THE CHURCH GROWS...after Peter's Pentecost sermon, it looked like a Billy Graham crusade: 3,000 people came forward to join the Jesus Movement. Did they know what following him meant, or how their lives might change? Probably not! They weren't drawn by a Church building; it had no buildings. They didn't come for Pastor or the music; they had neither. All they had was JESUS.**

**TEAM JESUS...they went from being a crowd to a team, as Luke puts it, "there were one heart and mind". It didn't happen overnight. Before they could grow the church, they first had to learn TO BE THE CHURCH. Luke gives clues as to what made them distinctive. Their blueprint of a vital church: they were devoted to the Apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, prayer. They studied together, taking Old Testament, Jesus' oral teaching and pondering them deeply. They took care of each other, shared life together. And, they worshipped together, not in a one hour service but an extended time of prayer and partaking of the Lord's Supper.**

**CHURCH IS GOD'S IDEA...building a team has never come easy. Team Jesus had its moments: little turf battles, personality clashes, minor spats, and major splits. The Church belongs to God before it belongs to us. It was God's idea: God was trying to give us God. There is A GAP between God's dream and the Church as it is. The Church of God's dreams has never existed in perfect form. In a way, God is still forming his team. Whatever happened, those first Christians were in it together. Before the New Testament, there'd never been a community where anyone who wanted to belong could belong. The ONLY QUALIFICATION for joining was that the admission that YOU ARE UNQUALIFIED.**

**SOMETHING WE DO TOGETHER...God pre-wired us for community. You will never be the person God meant you to be in isolation. Christianity is SOMETHING WE DO TOGETHER. Despite their flaws, they came together and stayed together. They prayed, studied, served the needy as a UNIT. As Luke put it, "one heart/mind" Like a tapestry, their lives were woven together. What they had in common mattered more than how they differed. Whatever happened, they were family. Everything Luke said about them was in the PLURAL-call it the BIG WE-and that includes us.**