

Lesson VII.

WORKING IN THE CHURCH

August 18, 1918

Acts 2 : 41-47 ; 4 : 32-35 ; 6 : 2-4. *Scripture Memory Verse, John 6 : 13.

Golden Text—Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise : give thanks unto him, and bless his name.—Psalm 100 : 4 (Rev. Ver.).



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41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized : and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 And fear came upon every soul : and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common :

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need.

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Ch. 4 : 32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul : neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own ; but they had all things common.

33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus : and great grace was upon them all.

34 Neither was there any among them that lacked : for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

35 And laid *them* down at the apostles' feet : and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

Ch. 6 : 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When Jesus had gone back to heaven, his disciples waited for the Holy Spirit to come to them as Jesus had promised. By and by the Holy Spirit did come and gave them power to speak so that people of all countries could understand what they were saying.

The apostle Peter preached such a wonderful sermon about Jesus and his power to save people from their sins, that three thousand people gladly came to Peter and the other disciples and were baptized and joined the church.

There were many poor people in the church, who were not earning enough money to buy the things that they needed. But Jesus' followers were willing to help one another, and many of those who had houses or lands sold them and gave the money to the apostles to be used in helping the poor. If one needed

food he was supplied with it. If another needed clothing, he got what he needed.

They were all very happy and worshiped God in the temple and from house to house amongst themselves. Every one thought well of these church people. God blessed them, and day by day more were added to the church.

The apostles went about preaching and the Holy Spirit helped them, and God showed great kindness to them. None of those early followers of Jesus were in want of food or anything else they needed, for those who had money gave for those who had none, and the apostles gave to each what things they required.

After a while the church grew so much that the apostles had not time to spend in giving out food and other things to so many people

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