

A Church and His Man

February 23, 2005

Mission of the Church

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers... attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42, 46-47)

SUMMARY:

Our task in mission is to make visible the dominion of Jesus and his Kingdom and His way of Agape.

NOTES:

“We American Christians are fortunate enough to be born into a constitutional democracy where we have rights, we Christians have no fundamental quarrel with the Powers that be. Of course, we may not be particularly happy with the current national administration, or certain aspects of the legal process, but we do have great power – unlike those who are not lucky enough to live in a democracy – to change what we do not like at will. And we modern people adore personal power above most anything else. Most contemporary Christians cannot say enough good about rights. The way we ensure the freedom of the individual as well as to create a limited state is to protect the rights of the individual. It has thus become our unquestioned assumption that every human person has the right to develop his or her own potential to the greatest possible extent, limited only to the parallel of the rights of others.” (Resident Aliens, pg.33)

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Introductory Question: Share with the group when following Jesus was painful or seemed pointless at the time for you?

Discussion:

- In the quote in your notes, who guarantees those rights? God, Nation, something else?
- Which would be dealt with most severe today, blasphemy or treason?
- What is the Christian response to that quote? Does there need to be one?
- Where do you perceive the “danger of the drift” for the Church in our culture?

APPLICATION:

Join a small group, Sunday school class and ask God to direct your community to be a conduit for his Agape toward others. Create opportunities to invite people to participate.

ON YOUR OWN...

Read: Philippians 2:5-11; 3:20-21
Ephesians 6:10-20; 3:7-12