

# +WEEKLY SERMON

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## Be inspired by the first followers of Christ

As we move on from the celebrations of Easter towards Pentecost, I have been reflecting on the experiences of those first followers of Christ. How were they feeling? What were they saying and doing in the aftermath of the Crucifixion and Resurrection?

What an incredible emotional roller coaster they travelled. Imagine watching Jesus die, and then seeing and speaking to him, resurrected and very much alive.

We have brief insights recorded in the New Testament as to the content of their conversations, but I am sure they said a whole lot more. What did they talk about? It is quite incredible to think that whatever was said, done, and felt by those first disciples, it is because of them and their faith, courage and sheer determination to share the good news of the resurrection that the worldwide Christian church was established.

There were many barriers in their way, fear, persecution, disbelief, and the ruling authorities. Yet we read in the Book of Acts that, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles ... every day they continued to meet in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

Over 2000 years later the church they began is still growing, living and sharing the good news of the saving love of Jesus. Those who were there at the beginning had no idea what the result would be of their faithfulness, perseverance and absolute trust in Jesus. They continued to be followers of Christ without any knowledge of what the outcome would be. We can learn a great lesson from this. As Christians we live our lives doing our best to follow the example of Jesus, hoping that we can make a difference to the lives of others. Sometimes we do see the fruits of our labour but for most of the time we don't. Simply by remembering the people of the early church we should be encouraged not to give up. Be faithful and steadfast in all circumstances to the task of sharing the good news of Jesus, our resurrected Lord and Saviour.

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HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES