

Local Revolution

Acts 2:36-47

Discover

Local means belonging or relating to a particular area or neighborhood. A revolution is the purposeful overthrow of a corrupt dominion or social order in favor of a new system.

The dragon used to be the most beautiful archangel in heaven. He was an anointed guardian cherub; a warrior angel who led the host of heaven in praising God. He saw the majesty, power, and perfection of his Creator, and his heart became envious. He attempted to overthrow God's rule and possess heaven for himself. God cursed him and cast him into hell: an eternal domain set apart for anyone who desires separation from God. (Ezekiel 28:11-19)

When our Father created Adam and Eve, the dragon visited them in Eden Garden. Despite God's love and a life in paradise, they decided together to reject him and follow the dragon. For this reason, we are all under the dominion of an abominable curse. Daily, we battle evil desires, the dragon's temptations, and a depraved world culture. (Genesis 3:1-19)

Our story does not end in despair. Jesus will return soon! His name is Faithful and True, his eyes are like blazing fire, and he wears many crowns representing his supreme command over every age past, present, and future. He will return to defeat the dragon's final assault on earth and heaven, seal him forever in hell, judge mankind, and usher in the next age where all things are new. (Revelation 19-21)

This lesson focuses on the Church as a new community on earth. We have been baptized into Christ; the old is gone and behold, the new is here. Together, we press into faith, hope, and love. We nurture a profound love for all peoples and coordinate plans to reach everyone. (1 Corinthians 13)



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Draw

Resurrection Covenant: water, disciples, & flames - Disciples baptized in water with the Holy Spirit resting upon them like a fire is a perfect picture of our new resurrection life in Jesus Christ. His life is now our life. We will never be the same after we surrender completely to his call. (2:36-41)

Jesus Focus: Jesus & light - Peter's message focused on Jesus: who he is, what he did, why he did it, and what it means for us. Peter also glorified Jesus' purpose, directing everyone's attention to his sacrifice and salvation. (2:36-39)

Breakthrough Prayer: kneeling disciple - When we enter this new life in Christ, we shift out of religious rites into an affectionate relationship with our Father. Jesus' Church prays all the time. We pray alone and together. Persistent prayer unleashes breakthrough in Jesus' mission. (2:42)

Legendary Generosity: shining & pouring cup - The first church was renowned for generosity. Everyone shared everything. Disciples met all the needs of those around them. They considered themselves one big family. (2:44-46)

Welcome Homes: houses & arrows - Jesus' Church desires to be together. We love each other, and we want to demonstrate that love however each of us are able. This church met together often, not just for worship gatherings, but also visiting each others' homes for fellowship. (2:46)

Communion Meals: table, bread, & cup - In the past, communion was a natural part of daily meals. Whenever the disciples met in homes for prayer and encouragement, they set apart time to reflect on Jesus' sacrificial death. (2:42,46)

Awakening Hearts: hearts & bridge - The result of Jesus' new church practicing a living gospel culture was a regional awakening: new disciples following Jesus every day. (2:47)

Discuss

Read Acts 2:36-41. How do we see prepared receivers in this story? What did Peter teach is absolutely necessary for salvation? How do you repent of evil when you pray? What do you think it was like to baptize 3,000 people in one day?

Read Acts 2:42-47. Consider the churches in your community if there are any. Do any of them have a reputation like this church? What is missing from this story in your church? How can we become more like this church?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:17-18. The Holy Spirit is everywhere, and he is sealed in us. The Holy Spirit's presence creates freedom; therefore, every disciple of Jesus is a Freedom Bearer. How do we carry freedom? How can there be lesser and greater glory? How do we seek God's greater glory?

Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. We all grow tired and weary over time. No one is always victorious except Jesus. How do we practice grace? How do we embrace our weaknesses? How does Jesus fill our weaknesses with his powerful strength?

Disciple

Let's get practical. What do you like about Jesus' first church? What is the Holy Spirit revealing in this story that you want to see happen in your church? What prevents our churches today from embracing this culture? How will we begin personally practicing the changes we want to see? Pray, and ask Jesus to fill our churches with fresh vision.

Dedicate

Father, we want to be like your first church. We want your kingdom to come and your will to be done in our churches today. Please help us desire only you and invite others into your family, in Jesus' name and for his glory we pray, amen.