



## Week 4 | October 7 Sermon

### Community:

An excerpt from ***Community is Messy*** by Heather Zempel for you to discuss together. Is this true? How have you seen this play out in your lives? How can you imagine this played out in the Kingdom community we see modeled in Acts? How can knowing this encourage you to “be real” in group?

Community is messy. It always has been and always will be. **Messy community is not the exception to the rule; it is the rule.** The good news is that mess, when engaged rightly, can be the very thing that brings what we most want in groups: **community and growth.**

**Proverbs 14:4** has become one of my organizing metaphors in regard to community, church, small groups or whatever circles of mess we find ourselves in: **“Where there are no oxen, the manger is empty, but from the strength of an ox come abundant harvests.”**

You can have a clean barn with no animals in it, but you aren’t going to get much done without animals. Likewise, you can have a tidy church as long as no one is in it, but **community requires that we show up. And showing up means bringing our messes.**

Perhaps answering the questions below is easy for you to do with your groupies by now. Or maybe not yet. Would you take a risk of sharing some “mess” as you answer authentically this week?

**Sermon Title: Over 130 Converts a Day Shake a City Part 2 | Text: Acts 3—4**

### Auditorium Discussion Questions::

What questions do you have from all of our reading in Acts?

What longings do you have from the book of Acts?

What specifically stands out to you in Acts 4?

Why do you think the Sadducees couldn’t accept the resurrection and miracles?

If you look at your own heart/person, are miracles easy for you to accept? Why or why not?

What makes miracles, signs, and wonders so hard to accept?

Is the LORD inviting you to allow him to move more freely in your life? How?

As you close your time, pray over the ways you answered the last question.

## Sanctuary Discussion Questions::

Please read Acts 4. What does the Spirit draw your attention to? Are you surprised by this? If so, why?

Question: What does Dr. Luke's repeated use of the phrase "being filled with the Holy Spirit" precede?

Answer: On every occasion, "being filled with the Holy Spirit" is followed by a strong verbal conversation about Jesus

Does Kevin's answer to the question surprise you? As you have been reading the text of Acts these past three weeks, have you found this to be true?

If it is true, how might you personally apply this? How could the group apply this?

Please review Dr. Luke's use of the word "name" in Acts 3-4:

3:6

3:16

4:7

\*If 4:10 is a key verse on Oct 7, what does the use of "name" imply?

4:10\*

4:12

How can you apply its use in your life this week?

4:17

4:18

4:30

Kevin suggested that the boldness in chapter 4 is directly connected to the infilling with the Holy Spirit and united prayer.

Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

Is this your experience? Why or why not?

How could your "measure of boldness" be seen and felt by others? Do you desire "boldness?"

Where might your relationship with the risen Christ be a good gift to others this week? Will you pray for this "in one accord?"

*Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. **Hebrews 10:24-25***

# GROUPS