

UNSTOPPABLE

ACTS: THE MISSION OF JESUS THROUGH HIS CHURCH

UNSTOPPABLE "Community" - Rev. Jeremy Bates

Sermon Notes: February 22, 2026

Text: Acts 2:42-47

What if church wasn't something you attended—but a community you belonged to? In a world marked by isolation, comparison, and feeling like an outsider, the early church offers a radically different picture: ordinary people, deeply devoted, living life together in a way that changed the world. This message explores why Christian community isn't perfect—but it is powerful—and how being saved by Jesus also means being saved into something bigger than ourselves. If you've ever wondered whether church could really feel like home, this one's for you!

THE MISSION OF JESUS CONTINUES THROUGH A SPIRIT-EMPOWERED, UNSTOPPABLE CHURCH

God never just saves us FROM something, He saves us TO something - "added to the church" v40

Word without Spirit or Mission:

- Theologically astute but legalistic & Judgmental
- Theological debate becomes the emphasis

Spirit without Word or Mission:

- Unanchored from the scriptures, other ideas seep in
- Spiritual/emotional experience becomes the emphasis

Mission without Word or Spirit:

- Shallow & watered down, truth softened to avoid offence
- "A form of godliness without real power." James 3:5
- Social Activism becomes the emphasis



DEVOTED TO

1) TEACHING (Truth) 2) COMMUNITY (Fellowship) 3) WORSHIP (Lord's Supper) 4) PRAYER

What divided the world couldn't divide the church, because Jesus was greater than every difference

"The church is a place where the only thing you have in common is Jesus - and it turns out to be more than enough." Tim Keller

The church didn't grow because it was POWERFUL, but because it was PRESENT

The church wasn't a meeting people attended but a movement people joined.

1) Stop "going" to church 2) Watch your language 3) Start Hosting 4) Become a Member

The church in Acts didn't change the world because they had a building, brand or budget, but because they were DEVOTED to Jesus and His mission



Life Group Discussion

Warm-Up:

They say “never judge a book by its cover”. Go around the group and have everyone share the most random or unexpected group, club, team, or community they've ever been part of. The weirder the better. Then vote on who had the most unexpected answer!

Have you ever had a time that you totally misjudged somebody and then got to know them and found they were totally different from your projections?

Study & Discussion:

Read Acts 2:22-47

1) What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you? What questions do you have?

2) Can you remember what your very first experience at church was like? Do you remember how you felt? If you grew up in church, where have you felt like a totally outsider before? What makes you feel like you belong at church?

3) How would you describe the differences between “going to church” and “belonging to a church community”? Where do you see yourself on that spectrum right now?

4) Of the four things the early believers were devoted to — teaching, community, worship, and prayer — which one comes most naturally to you? Which one do you most neglect?

5) The sermon made the point that the early church crossed lines others wouldn't — ethnic, economic, social. Where do you think the modern church still struggles with this?

6) Is there an area — serving, a life group, membership — where you've been hesitating to take a next step? What's holding you back?

Prayer:

