***JON’S SERMON OUTLINE….***

WHAT MAKES A CHURCH GREAT?

***22****“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—****23****Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;****24****whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.* ***36****“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”* ***37****Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”* ***38****Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.****39****For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”* ***40****And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.”****41****Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.* ***46****So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,****47****praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

Acts 2:23-25, 36-41, 46-47

Introduction: In the wake of declining numbers, local congregations of the Lord’s church are struggling to attract and keep new members. When you consider how easy it is to be a member of a church and the lack of persecution in our time, it makes you wonder why we have such a decline. Although the early church didn’t have the vast resources we have, they had the same gospel. Using the first church in Acts 2, let’s find out what makes a church a great church:

1. A GREAT CHURCH MAKES \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ A PRIORITY (Acts 1:8):

a. They waited in Jerusalem and prepared to go everywhere.

b. We must obey God, starting where we’re at and going into all the world.

2. A GREAT CHURCH MAKES \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ NOTICE (Acts 2:12-13):

a. They captured the attention of people around them.

b. We must live boldly and unashamedly for the Lord so others will notice.

3. A GREAT CHURCH MAKES \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ FOR EVERYONE (Acts 2:17):

a. They didn’t discriminate against race, gender, or age.

b. We must provide for everyone a place of service in the body.

4. A GREAT CHURCH MAKES \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ THE GOSPEL (Acts 2:36-38):

a. They made it clear that salvation was their main purpose.

b. We must tell others who Jesus is, what He did, and what they must do.

CONCLUSION: If you’ve been added, are you an addition?

Answers: 1. Obedience 2. Outsiders 3. Opportunities 4. Obvious