



## DAY 20 - Isaiah 5:6; Acts 2:42; 4:31- Being Community...In Prayer...

In Isaiah 56:7 we learn *“these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”*

In my initial reading of this verse I wondered who Isaiah is talking about when he refers to “these”?

I felt drawn to be with them on the holy mountain. Mentioned earlier in the passage, Isaiah is referring to all of those that “do what is good and right”, and those that “honor my Sabbath... and keep themselves from doing wrong”. Isaiah is telling us to draw close to God, go deeper in relationship with Him. Our relationship with God grows through time in prayer with him. All who devote themselves (offerings and sacrifices) to Jesus will be accepted in His house. It does not matter where you are in your Christian walk or where you are from (all nations), when we go deeper in our relationship with Jesus we experience the joy he gives us in his “house of prayer”.

In these last 20 days we have drawn closer to God through our fasting and prayer. By doing this together as a church body, we witness to the world.

We see this realized in the New Testament when told about early church development in Acts 2:42: *“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”*

As we devote ourselves to Jesus through spending time in the Word, time in prayer, and time in fellowship with other believers we feel fulfilled. Nothing can fill us as completely as this. Yes, we need Jesus, but we also need each other, for God reaches us through people. He uses our prayer for others and our fellowship time together to build one another up and to build a community of faith.



We learn about the amazing impact the early church had in Acts 4:31: *“After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”* When striving toward greater intimacy with God through obedience and prayer, and growing in community of faith that builds one another up, we are filled by the Holy Spirit. When the Spirit governs our lives, we witness boldly and journey with Jesus toward the holy mountain. Then our community of faith “shakes the ground” and we become one of “these” that Isaiah spoke of.

Let us come together to pray!

Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who HEARS them and not on the one who says them, our prayers DO make a difference. Max Lucado