

Sermon Guide: Rediscovering the Good News of Jesus: “Church on Fire”

Rafael Franco | Feb. 04

In this sermon, Rafael Franco speaks on the connection between the gospel message and the church, looking especially at the beginnings of the church in the book of Acts. Rafael highlights the role of the Holy Spirit in the early church's formation and the central place that the gospel message had in the foundation of the church.

Despite the imperfections of the church—which is made up of imperfect people—Rafael encourages us to focus on God's love as the unifying and healing power of the church. It is God's transformative love that fosters repentance, forgiveness, unity, and growth within the church community. Rafael invites the audience to embrace the opportunity to be part of a loving and imperfect church, trusting in God's presence to guide and transform lives.

Overall, the sermon emphasizes the foundational role of the gospel and God's love in shaping the church and calls believers to embrace their role in fostering unity, forgiveness, and growth within the church community.

Scripture Readings

Acts 2:38-47

Discussion Questions:

1. Share your experiences of both the positive and challenging aspects of being part of a church community. How do these experiences shape your understanding of the church's role in your life?
2. Explore the parallels between the early church described in the book of Acts and modern-day church communities. In what ways do you see similarities or differences in how the church operates today?
3. Consider the emphasis on the importance of unity, fellowship, and prayer within the church. How can these practices strengthen relationships and foster spiritual growth among church members?
4. Discuss the challenges mentioned in the sermon, such as hypocrisy and conflict within the church. How can individuals and communities address these challenges while remaining faithful to the gospel message?

5. In this series of sermons at Granville, we've been talking about the centrality of Jesus's kingship. How does Jesus' role as king contribute to the act of repentance in the church?

6. Reflect on your own hopes and aspirations for our church community. How do you envision God's love shaping the life and ministry of our church, and what role do you see yourself playing in that vision?