



## **Sermon Discussion Questions**

Sunday, May 15, 2011

**NEXT: The Multiplying Tribe**

**Acts 14:21-23; 1 Tim 3:1-7**

During these past three weeks, we have talked about what is "NEXT". Each of us live day to day always thinking about what is NEXT. Share with your group what you see as NEXT in your life. It could be anything. What comes to mind for you when you think about your life and NEXT.

This morning we took communion and "declared the Lord's death." Imagine being one of the original disciples of Jesus and you have just watched him die. You spent the last 3 years of your life believing he was Savior and then you watch him die. What do you think many of them wondered was NEXT?

They didn't realize that the "CHURCH" was NEXT. It was the Church that Christ would establish for the purpose of going into all the world, making more and better followers of Christ. Mike used the language of "missionary tribe" to describe this.

### **Read Acts 2:47; 5:14; 8:1-4; 14:21-23**

What was happening during all of these passages? What do you see from these verses as being the primary purpose of the church?

As more and more people began to follow Christ, the church needed healthy leadership to make sure these people were cared for. When you think about healthy leadership in the church, how would you describe healthy leaders?

Have there been times in your journey you have seen unhealthy leadership in the church? Tell about that time while being careful not to tell "too much". How did this affect you and the church?

The Bible tells us a lot about the role of leadership as Elder. What is your understanding of the Elders at Lake Forest? Do you know who they are? Do you know what they do?

### **Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7**

You can break these things down to a few categories:

#### 1) Their relationship to God

- a) Man or Woman ([www.openmikeblog.com](http://www.openmikeblog.com) and search 'women in leadership')
- b) Above Reproach
- c) Able to teach
- d) Not a new Christian

How do each of these challenge you to grow in your faith? The question is not, "to challenge you to become an elder". These are things that are important to grow as a believer, not just an elder.

#### 2) Their relationship to Family

- a) Faithful to spouse or celibant as single
- b) Successful parent, earning respect from their children
- c) Manages family well

How do each of these challenge you to grow in your faith?

#### 3) The Elders relationship to self

- a) Self-control
- b) not given to drunkenness
- c) Not a lover of money

- d) Hospitable
- e) Not violent but gentle
- f) Good reputation with outsiders

How do each of these challenge you to grow in your faith?

One of the things Scripture says about the role of elder is that it is a "noble calling". As you look at all of these characteristics, how does it drive you to pray for the elders of LFC?

Spend time as a group praying for the Elders at LFC.