

# From House to House

(Series: Reimagining Church; Message Twenty-One)

*“Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.” (Acts 5: 42)*

## A. Preparing the soil prior to planting is essential for a successful harvest

### B. The harvest the early church experienced was incredible

*“The seed falling on good [prepared] soil ...produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.” (Matthew 13:23)*

#### 1. Prepared soil is good soil

- a. The early church would sow the seed by proclaiming the Word
- b. But first, they would prepare the soil with continuous and fervent prayer

#### 2. Preparing the soil for a spiritual harvest always begins with prayer

Have you been praying for your neighbor?

#### 3. The disciples went *door-to-door* practicing an incarnational gospel

#### 4. The “*always praying*” [soil preparation] for their neighbors gives way to “*never-stopped teaching and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus*”

## REFLECTION...

### A. Why does our 20<sup>th</sup> century North American brand of Christianity look so insipid compared to the church of the first century?

1. We’ve all heard the excuses
2. But don’t we serve the same God? Don’t we have the same Spirit?

### B. Do we long to experience what they experienced?

1. Preparation is hard work; the results are not guaranteed
2. Why do we prefer to be a copy rather than the genuine article?

#### a. In Acts, God was visibly moving among his people:

Where have you seen God at work?

#### b. In Acts, communities were being transformed:

Is your neighborhood any different because you’re living there?  
Do your neighbors know you love Jesus?

#### c. In Acts, people were repenting and embracing Jesus

Have you seen anyone repent lately?

#### d. In Acts, miracles were commonplace:

Have you asked God to do a miracle through you?

#### e. In Acts, churches were springing up everywhere

Why do we have trouble forming small groups today?

#### f. In Acts, Christians were called to sacrifice and rejoiced in the privilege

Today we believe the church is for us - to meet our needs and wants

### 4. What made the early church so different than the church of today?

- a. The early church prepared the soil. They prayed
  - b. God promised to hear every prayer. They took his promise seriously
- ### 5. When a church adequately prepares the soil to plant the seed of God’s Word it will become a spiritual powerhouse from which God’s miracles will flow exponentially

## C. Imagine living in a prayed-for community

1. How fertile would the soil be for God to work?
2. Let’s expand our stakes; claim his Lordship; take this community for Jesus
3. Let’s prepare the soil for a move of God’s Spirit