

As a child, my father worked for a few different missions organizations. As a result, he found himself in different parts of the world. Throughout the year, he would find himself away for as long as two or three weeks at a time. My dad, being the great father that he is, did everything possible to plan his trips around my baseball and basketball games as well as my other two brothers' activities. (Despite his travels, I cannot remember many games or events that he missed). However, he was not always able to be around when the unexpected happened.

For example, one specific time when he was traveling (most likely in some foreign country on the other side of the world) we had an extraordinary rainstorm at home. You know those storms, the ones where it's raining so hard, you figure that if you go outside you might actually get knocked over by the wind and rain. It just so happened that during this storm, the gutters on our roof were blocked. This caused water to start flowing into our basement at a nice steady pace. My brothers and I were still very young at the time, so us going out on the ladder in the middle of the downpour was not an option. My mother was not too enthusiastic at the idea of doing it herself either.

Enter Carl Metcalf (our hero for the night): He was a man in our church who regularly helped our family when my father was out of town. That night he came over, got up on the ladder and cleaned out our gutters in the middle of the storm. Carl and his family were close friends of our family for a long time. He was not only around for times we needed him. But I can also remember countless times when our families simply enjoyed spending time together. Whether it was simply playing Pictionary (which was our game of choice back then), eating together, or simply getting together with a number of other families, Carl understood community. He recognized that being part of a community was a commitment to the fun times and the difficult times. Last week Carl passed away in an accident on his way to work. The one thing I will remember about him however was that he was committed to community. He understood his part in community, and his family's part in community. Lets pray that we can understand community the way Carl did.

Can you think of someone else who has a great sense of community? What kinds of things did they do or say that demonstrated this?

READ ACTS 2:42-47

In verse 42, what are the four things that the people were committed to? At what times do we do those things in our community (at Jericho Valley Church)? On a scale of 1-10, how much are you devoted to these activities?

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These people were obviously not “devoted” to a community for no reason. What are some of the things they were doing in verses 43-47 that would have made this community attractive to be a part of?

According to verse 47, what is the result of a community that is devoted to the selflessness seen in verses 42-46?

How can *you and your family* be a part of helping Jericho Valley Church be a community like this?

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:

Read John 17:20-23 – What is the connection between community and evangelism?

Read Ephesians 4:11-16 – Sunday Pastor Brad talked about spiritual gifts in the community. In this passage, what is the purpose of spiritual gifts? (v 12) What are the results of the body of Christ (the church) using these spiritual gifts? (13-16)