

Talking Points/MSL Notes for possible inclusion in your sermon for "Main Street Living Sunday" 2017

From the MSL Board of Directors: In past years we have provided a sermon written by one of the Pastors in the District for use on MSL Sunday. However, this year we thought we would try something different: select one of the assigned readings from the 3-year series for May 7 (4th Sunday of Easter), and offer some talking points concerning MSL for points of application. We have selected Act 2: 42-47 for this purpose.

Vs: 42 & 43 **"And they devoted themselves to the apostolic teaching"**

Every week, one of our Pastors in the South Dakota District shares the true Word of God with the viewers throughout the area. While many other TV preachers distort or misapply the Word, Main Street Living continues to preach the truth of Holy Scripture as the very Word of God, no matter which of our pastors is featured on the program for the week.

Vs: 44 **"and all who believed were together"**

Many of the MSL viewers are no longer able to attend regular services at their church. But through television, a media widely accepted and available to most homes, they can hear the true Gospel through the efforts of the Pastors of the District. Even though the Pastor changes from week-to-week, the message is consistent, the teachings are correct, and it is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that unites the hearers as members of holy Christian Church and the communion of saints.

Vs 46 **"and day by day, attending the temple together..."**

Regardless of the weather in the Midwest, Main Street Living is on the air every Sunday morning. When blizzards prevent travel, the viewers, even though not assembled in one building, are united by the message. The message they hear is based on the same scripture being preached in most of our LCMS congregations throughout the area.

Vs 46 **"attending the temple"**

In Jesus' time people would gather in the temple courts to hear a message from their leaders. Today, that message is shared through a media that is part of almost every home, television. Some people who choose not to attend services at a church, for any number of reasons, are tuning in to Main Street Living as their source of the Living Word. Evidence of this was given in a recent letter received by Main Street Living from viewers in Australia. The couple stated that Main Street Living had become their source of hearing the true Gospel and in participating in a quality Lutheran Christian worship service, blessings they do not have where they currently live.

Vs 47 **"praising God and having favor with all the people"**

How do you praise God? Many will say they praise Him through song. Main Street Living is a pioneer, in Christian programming, in printing the words of the hymns at the bottom of the television screen so viewers can sing along with the choir as they perform the hymn. We know this enhances the worship experience for many people.

Vs 47 **"And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."**

"Faith comes by hearing," says the Apostle Paul in Romans. We know that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, and while we may never have the privilege of knowing specific people who are saved for eternity because they have heard the Gospel proclaimed via MSL, we trust God's promise to use His powerful Word to bring spiritual blessing to those who hear the Good News of Jesus in this way in their homes.