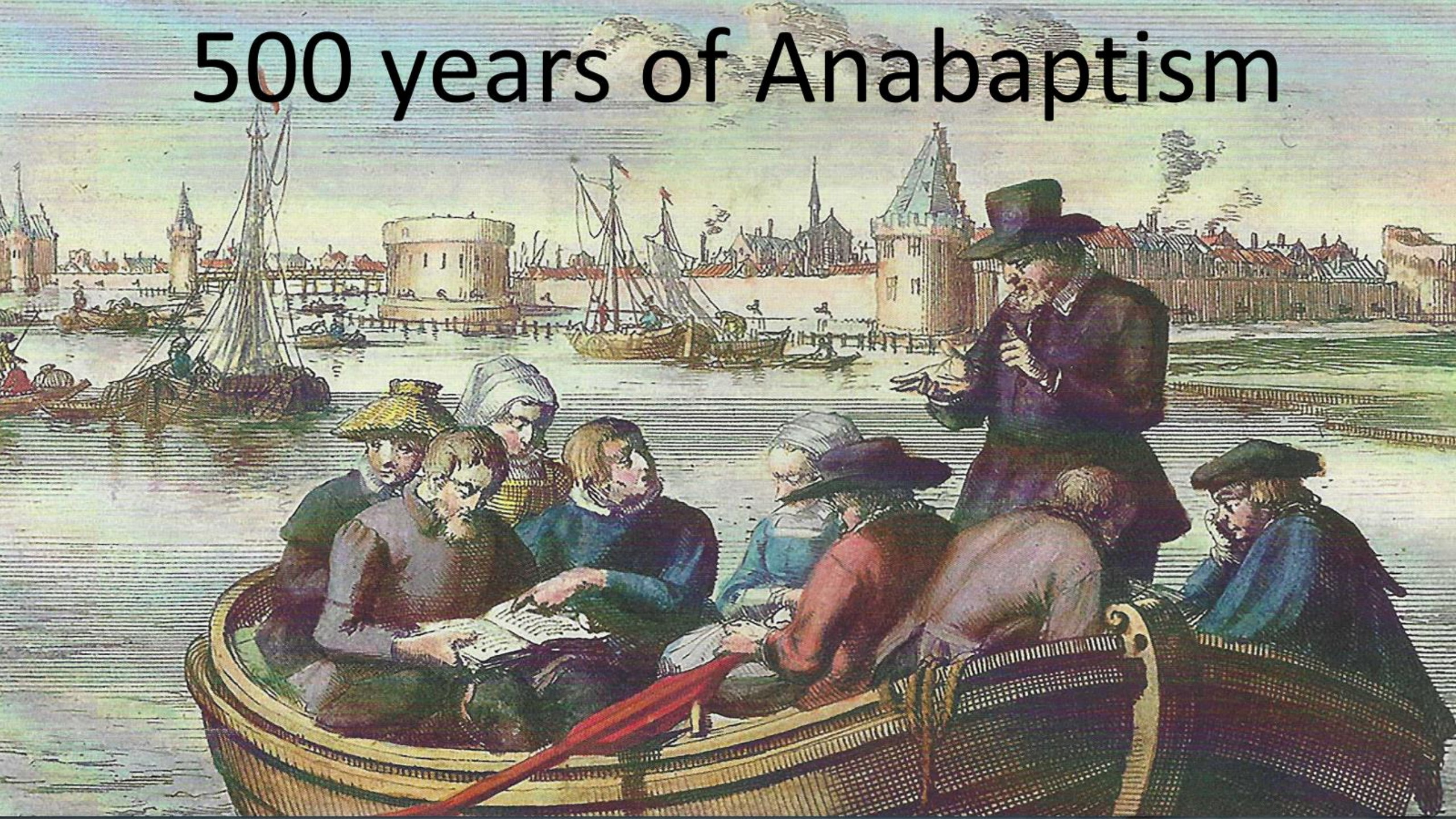


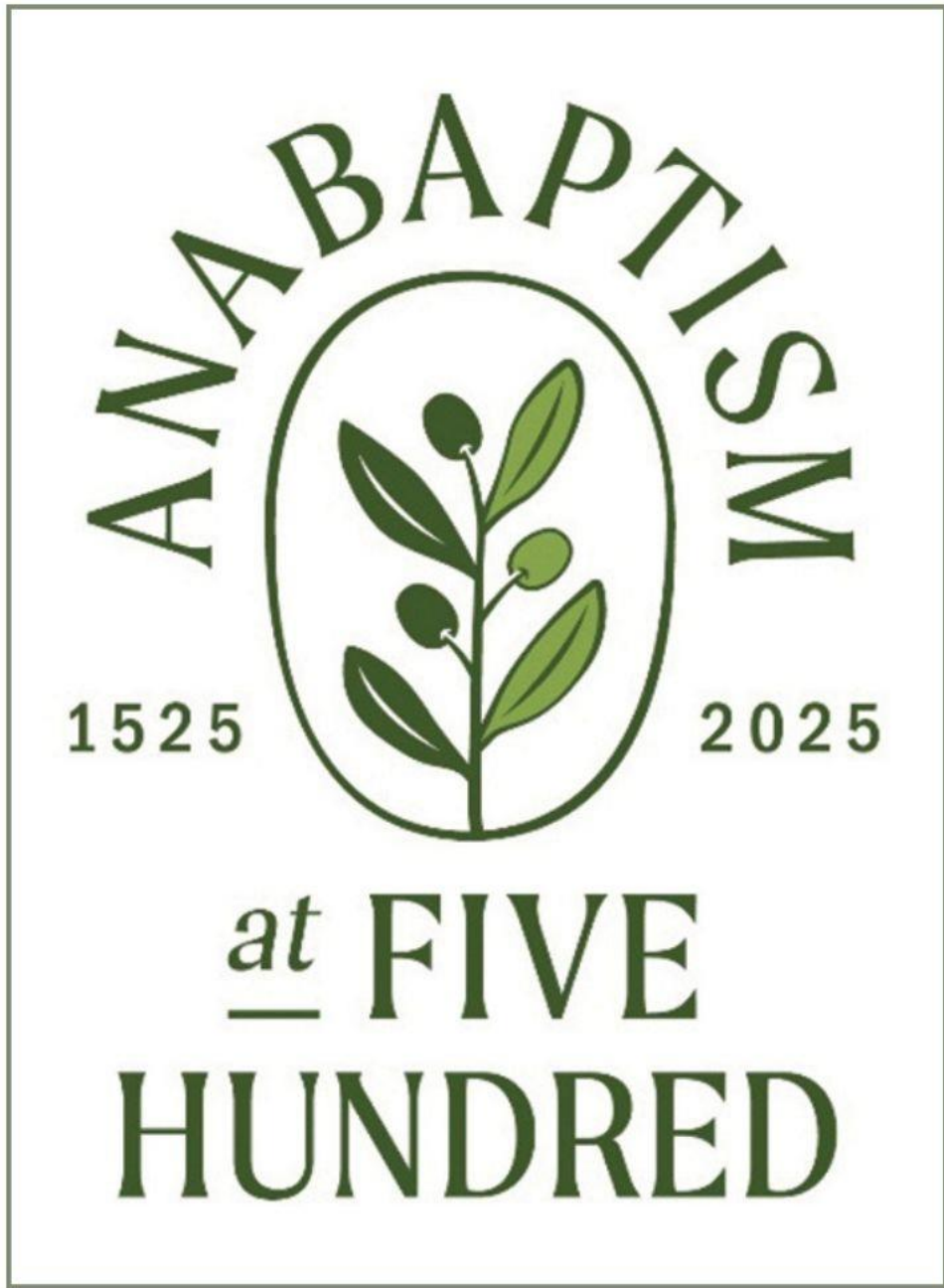
TODAY'S MESSAGE

**COMMUNITY:
The Center
of Our Lives**

Acts 2:42-47

500 years of Anabaptism

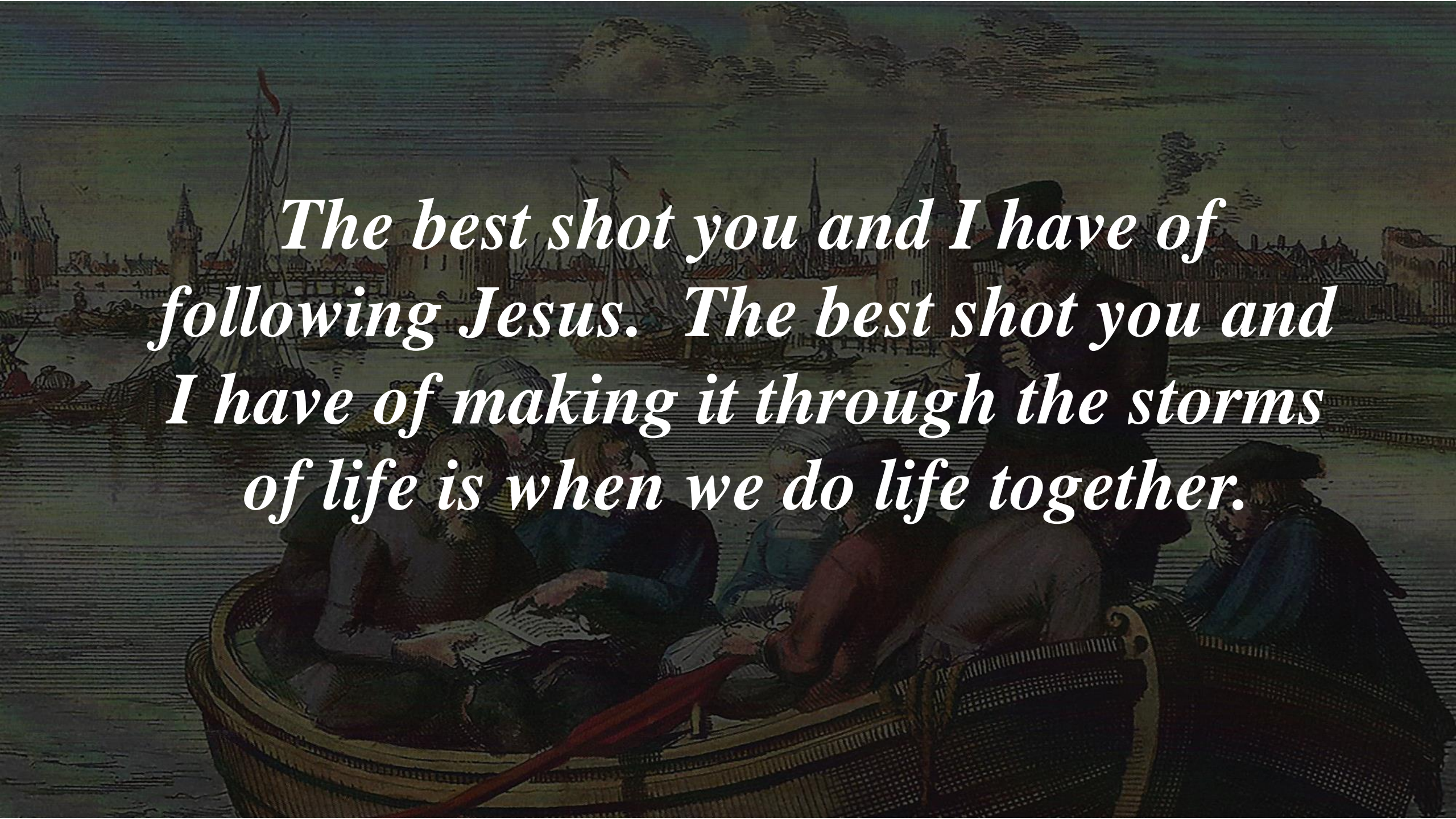




TODAY'S MESSAGE

**COMMUNITY:
The Center
of Our Lives**

Acts 2:42-47

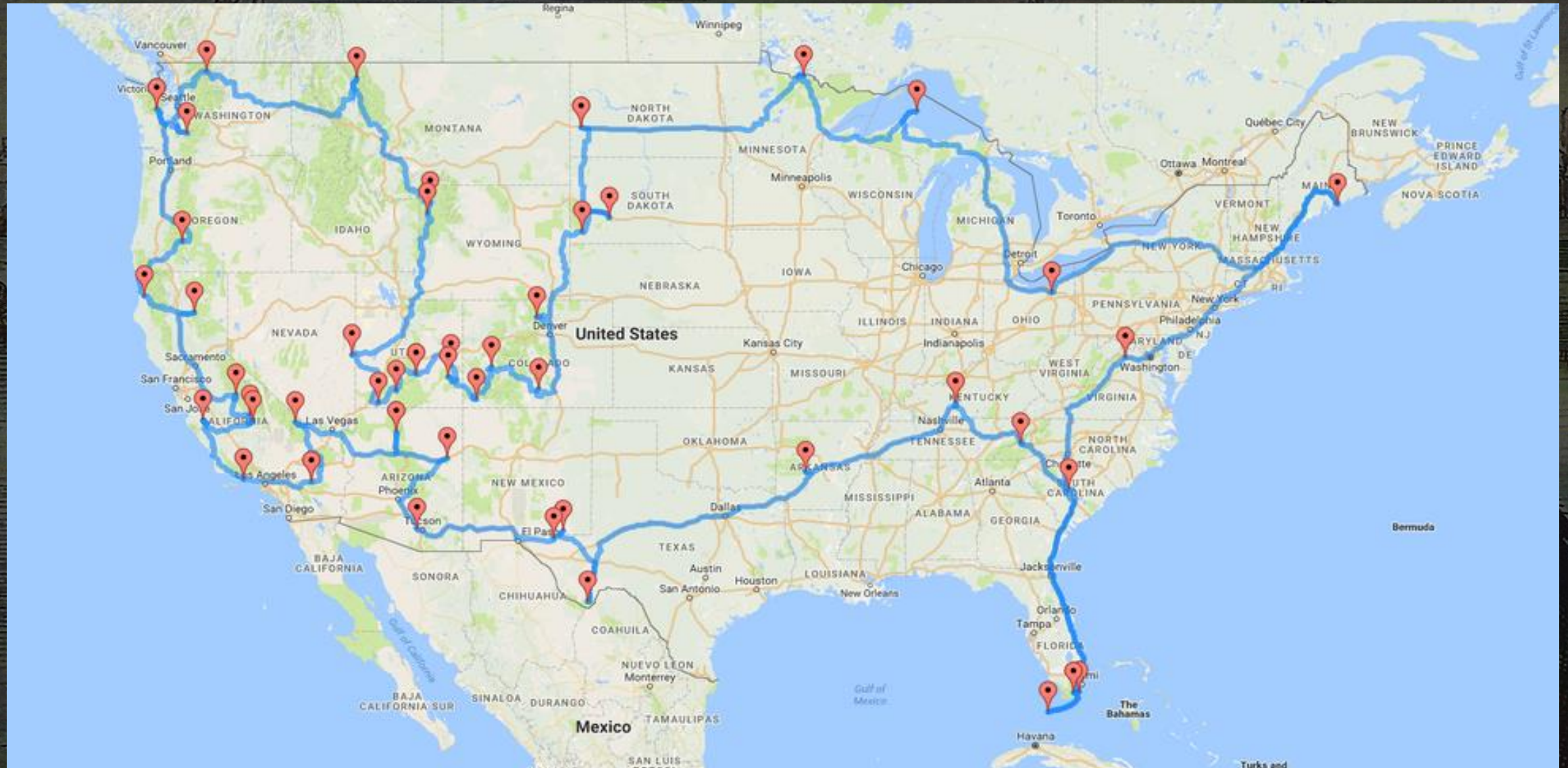
The background is a dark, atmospheric illustration. In the foreground, a group of people are gathered in a boat, some looking at a book or document. The boat is on a body of water. In the background, there are several sailing ships and a town with buildings and a church spire. The overall scene is dimly lit, suggesting a night or dusk setting.

The best shot you and I have of following Jesus. The best shot you and I have of making it through the storms of life is when we do life together.

House in Pingjum, Holland were early Anabaptists met.
What looks like a house on the front is hiding a sanctuary in
the rear of the house where they worshiped together.



6-month National Parks Road Trip



Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Barriers to Authentic Christian Community

I don't have time to get into deeper relationships or break bread with other Christians because _____.

Busyness

Apathy

Lack of Vulnerability

Other...

The direction we choose will determine the outcome we experience.



The Local Church - A Community of Faith

- Forgiveness is essential for community

Matthew 18:21-22

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

Mark 11:25

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.

The Local Church - A Community of Faith

- Forgiveness is essential for community
- The Scriptures are interpreted in community

Proverbs 27:17

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

Hebrews 10:24

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”

1 Corinthians 12:27

“You are the body of Christ, and each one is a part of it.”

The Local Church - A Community of Faith

- Forgiveness is essential for community
- The Scriptures are interpreted in community
- Face to Face to fellowship, support, encourage

Galatians 6:2

Carry each other's burdens, & in this way fulfill the law of Christ.

Ephesians 4:3

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

**The world at its worst needs
the church at its best!**

