

## Sermon Outline - Sun, Jun 13, 2021- Redistribution of Resources

Overview: We continue our study Pentecost by looking at how the apostles respond to the move of the Holy Spirit and the movement they build. We are using the acronym PRIDE (**P**rayed and **P**raised; **R**edistributed Resources; **I**ntegrated Communities; **D**ined Together; **E**xpanded the Circle) to look at their specific actions. Today we talk about how the redistributed resources.

### Story Exegesis –

- This part of the text is pretty radical from the standards of how we do church now, but the practice while not standard was not entirely uncommon in the time
- The Qumran community or Essenes were from a Jewish tradition built on a radical notion of what it mean to live God's kin(g)dom. They may have been the blueprint for this
- Their system invited people to join and release their personal possession for collective possessions. They had a courting period, a trial period and then full admission
- The community leaned heavily on the ideas behind Matthew 6:19,20 (Lay not **up for yourselves treasures** upon earth, where moth. and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20: But lay **up for yourselves treasures in heaven**.)
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### Key Points –

- **They saw themselves as having a movement destiny given to them by God** – They saw themselves as a body of believers not an occasional gathering of individuals
- **They saw their resources as God's gift to their community**– It says they had everything in common. This is so different from how church is commonly seen now.
- **They let go of what they didn't need** – They let go of the things they didn't actually need both because some had too much and because if you are sharing everything you don't need nearly as much. (How many pots do we need if we are sharing all meals?)
- **They gave to meet each other's needs** – They made sure that everyone had what they needed both through sharing and through resource allocation.

This is a pretty radical vision of church, even at the time and more so now. It reminds us that if we are truly transformed then we cannot leave in place the distribution of resources that emerges from the sins of racism, sexism, classism, ableism and other oppressions that have driven our economic system. If we have a new vision is should show up in how we deal with resources.

### Questions –

1. What is your vision of church – a movement, a ministry, a service – how does that vision shape your interaction with these ideas?
2. How do you interact with resource redistribution? Do you yearn for this way, feel uncomfortable with this notion, or somewhere in between? What draws or repels you?
3. Looking at your own practice, where could you let go of things either because you simply do not need it or because you are leaning into deeper interdependence and sharing?
4. How is God calling the New Roots community into deeper sharing and giving – both within this community and beyond?