

## Jesus For All

### Week 5: Sharing and Purging

#### Series:

- Week 1: Living for Something Bigger (Acts 1:1-11)
- Week 2: The Arrival of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-21)
- Week 3: Sermons and Gathering of the Church (Acts 2:22-47)
- Week 4: Persecution, Preaching, and Prayer (Acts 3-4:31)
- Week 5: Sharing and Purging (Acts 4:32-5:11)
- Week 6: Serving and Suffering (Acts 6-7)
- Week 7: The Truth and Baptism (Acts 8:26-40)
- Week 8: Encounter with God (Acts 9:1-31)
- Week 9: Good News for Gentiles (Acts 10-12)

#### Scripture:

Acts 4:32-5:11

#### Motivation (Why You Need to Know It):

Earlier we discovered that the church was aware and active in meeting needs.

**Acts 2:44 (NLT)** And all the believers...shared everything they had. **45** They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.

I debated concluding with this information, but I think it's important to see this up front as we talk about generosity.

How do we handle generous distribution at The Summit Church?

**VALUE: Do for one what we wish we could do for all.**

Internally – Locally – Regional – Globally

**Total Outgoing Missions Money - \$40,000 (about 13% of offerings)**

*\*On track to give away \$50,000 this year\**

- Total Local/Global Missions - \$30,000 (support people on 3 continents)
- Food Pantry - \$10,000 (serves those inside and outside our church)
  - ✓ 2,137 people assisted (657 families = 841 children, 996 adults, 300 senior adults)
  - ✓ \$5 per person to provide groceries for 7-10 days

## Information (What You Need to Know):

### ***Conclusions of the Early Church about Money and Possessions:***

- Money and possessions don't belong to us  
**Acts 4:32 (NLT)** All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.

- Money and possessions are to be used for those in need (rich and poor in church)  
**Acts 4:34 (NLT)** There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them **35** and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

When we talk about money...

- ✓ People who don't have a lot may feel guilty
- ✓ People who are comfortable may get defensive (the poor and pastors)  
**1 Timothy 5:17 (NLT)** Elders who do their work well should be respected and paid well, especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching.
- ✓ People who have an abundance may get prideful

#### ***Advice about money -***

- ✓ Take care of family  
**1 Timothy 5:8 (NLT)** But those who won't care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers.
- ✓ Avoid loving it  
**1 Timothy 6:10 (NLT)** For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.
- ✓ Balance what you keep with what you give  
**2 Corinthians 8:13 (NLT)** ...I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality.

- Money and possessions of others were distributed through the church leadership  
**Acts 4:34 (NLT)** There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them **35** and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

There is a concluding contrast about the condition of a person's heart in generosity (Barnabas vs. Ananias and Sapphira).

### Barnabas

**Acts 4:36 (NLT)** For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means "Son of Encouragement"). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. **37** He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles.

### Ananias and Sapphira

**Acts 5:1 (NLT)** But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property. **2** He brought part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife's consent, he kept the rest. **3** Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. **4** The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!" **5** As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified.

I believe generosity gets lost when we ask the wrong questions.

It's not, "How much *should* I give?"

Instead let's ask, "How much *can* I give?"

If nearly every penny you earn is kept for your family, you're not generous.

### Application (What You Need To Do):

Here's some concluding advice about generosity...

- If you lack, receive with a commitment to give in the future
- If you are comfortable, give so it stretches you
- If you have abundance, consider how your money can outlast you