

Silverdale Baptist Church

20/20 - Celebrating The Vision • BLESSINGS OF BIBLICAL GENEROSITY •
ACTS 4:32-37, 2 SAMUEL 24:24-25, 2 CORINTHIANS 9:5-8 • 02/11/2018

Main Point

Reaching the next generation will take a generous and sacrificial heart attitude.

Discussion

Unpack the Biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about our topic.

> Ask a volunteer to read Acts 4:32-37. (Feeling the Spirit)

This passage gives us a clear glimpse into the daily lives of the early church. The early Christians were so unified in spirit that Luke described them as being “of one heart and mind” with an attitude of nothing being held as exclusively owned. (v. 32). Their lives were marked by generosity and selflessness. Because of this attitude God responded with "abundant grace was upon them all." When someone in their midst had a physical need, someone stepped up to make sure it was met. We’re given one tangible example of their love for each other in verses 36-37. Barnabas, widely recognized for his encouraging nature, sold a piece of land and gave the proceeds to the apostles who would distribute it as needed. It’s important to note here that the act of giving one’s possessions was not a requirement for the early church, but rather an act of kindness left to the discretion of the giver. Barnabas freely gave for the benefit of others. When people gave, the apostles would use the proceeds to attend to the known needs.

What did it mean for the church to be "of one heart and mind?"

What does that "heart and mind" look like here at Silverdale?

> Ask a volunteer to read 2 Samuel 24:24-25 (counting the value)

King David saw a need. God led him to a special property on which to build. David aquired the land with a sacrificial attitude when he declares, "I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God wihich cost me nothing." (v.24) The King's attitude moved the Lord to answer the prayers of David and the people.

Why do you think David had a desire to give something that personally cost him?

Describe a time you have been moved to generosity that cost you. How did God respond?

> Ask a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 9:5-8 (A promised gift)

Paul is writing the church in Corinth about the collection of their faith promise. This is the Biblical commitment card. The church's "previously promised bountiful gift" reveals a spirit of generosity "not affected by covetousness". (v. 5). A God-pleasing spirit of generosity is described in detail in verse 7 with a clear promise of God's responsive grace. (v. 8)

What do you think motivated the Corinthians to promise to give so bountifully?

What do you think is the best motivation for giving a faith-promise commitment?

Application

Identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to our lives.

What effect has the generosity of Jesus Christ had on you? How can your overflow of gratitude make a difference in reaching the next generation of Silverdale members and leaders?

How can cheerfully promising and giving our time and treasure be a catalyst for the next generation to come to faith in Christ and become disciples?

Prayer

Close your group time in prayer. Thank God for the sacrifice He made by sending Jesus to die for our sins. Ask Him to open your eyes to opportunities you'll encounter this week to set your own priorities aside and participate in promised giving with an authentic spirit of gratitude and generosity.