

Giving Together

Read: Acts 4:32-5:11

Main Idea: True unity in the church is fostered through genuine giving, reflecting the heart of Christ, which warns against hypocrisy and promotes radical generosity.

Key Verses: “Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.” **(Acts 4:32-33)**

Key Principles:

- The gospel creates a unified community where believers voluntarily share possessions, not out of obligation but as a reflection of God’s grace at work.
- Generosity in the early church was empowered by the Spirit, leading to powerful witness and the elimination of need among believers.
- Hypocrisy in giving undermines unity, as seen in attempts to deceive the community and God, which invites divine discipline.
- God’s judgment on sin within the church serves as a sobering reminder of His holiness and the need for integrity in all actions.
- True giving honors God by prioritizing honesty and accountability, avoiding the appearance of piety for personal gain.
- Radical generosity, exemplified by figures like Barnabas, builds up the body of Christ and advances His mission.

Discussion:

1. How does this passage illustrate the role of the gospel in establishing unity through sharing? Share a time when you've experienced or witnessed selfless generosity.
2. How does sacrificial giving in the early church model empowerment for ministry today? How does withholding resources hinder the church’s witness in our context?
3. What challenges arise when trying to be honest beforein your giving and motives? How does this passage help you examine your heart for hidden hypocrisy?
4. How does this story show that God sees beyond outward actions? What practical steps can you take to cultivate transparency in financial and spiritual matters.
5. Why is accountability to God essential for maintaining church unity, and how does judgment play a role?
6. How does the contrast between Barnabas and the couple affirm God’s call to genuine generosity? Share how this motivates you to pursue radical generosity.

Prayer:

- Pray for openness to generosity and unity, confronting any hypocrisy in our lives
- Pray for:
 - Integrity in giving, that we would honor God with honest hearts and actions.
 - That your members will experience the Spirit’s empowerment for selfless sharing.
 - Boldness to hold one another accountable to build up the church through love.

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Acts 4:32-5:11

- I. Be united in generosity. 4:32-35**
 - 1. Selfless sharing builds community. 4:32
 - 2. Sacrificial giving empowers ministry. 4:33-35

- II. Be honest before God. 5:1-4**
 - 1. God knows your thoughts. 5:1-2
 - 2. God knows your heart. 5:3-4

- III. Be accountable to God. 5:5-11**
 - 1. You cannot escape judgment. 5:5-6
 - 2. You cannot deflect blame. 5:7-11

NEXT WEEK:
Surrendered Together
Acts 5:12-16