



...and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8b

The Church Shares All In Common
Acts 4:32 – 5:11
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The Unity of the Early Church
Acts 4:32, 33 (NASB)
And the congregation of those who believed **were of one heart and soul**; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own; but all things were common property to them. And with great **power** the apostles were giving witness to **the resurrection of the Lord Jesus**, and **abundant grace was upon them all**.

" Christian unity comes from the heart
" The resurrection is emphasized throughout Acts
" God's work is always by grace alone

The Sharing of Goods: Acts 4:32-5:11 2

They Sell Capital Assets
Acts 4:34, 35 (NASB)
For **there was not a needy person among them**, for **all who were owners of land or houses would sell them** and bring the proceeds of the sales, and lay them at the apostles' feet; and they would be distributed to each, as any had need.

" They were highly motivated to fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2)
" This does not imply that their actions were wise in the long term since the Jerusalem church eventually became very needy

The Sharing of Goods: Acts 4:32-5:11 3

Barnabas Is Introduced in Acts

Acts 4:36, 37 (NASB)

And Joseph, a **Levite of Cyprian birth**, who was also called **Barnabas** by the apostles (which translated means, Son of Encouragement), and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

" Barnabas was a Levite Jew from the dispersion who likely never served in the temple, but became one who was a great encouragement to the Gentile mission

" Luke often introduces characters who later become important in his narrative

The Sharing of Goods: Acts 4:32-5:11

4

Serious Sin Jeopardizes Unity

Acts 5:1, 2 (NASB)

But a certain man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and **kept back some of the price for himself**, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet.

" Ananias wanted to be seen as pious under false pretenses

" It is foolish to seek to look spiritual in the eyes of others when we know God sees all things

" The term "embezzled" is used as it is in Josh. 7:1

The Sharing of Goods: Acts 4:32-5:11

5

Ananias Lies to the Holy Spirit

Acts 5:3, 4 (NASB)

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has **Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit**, and to keep back some of the price of the land? While it remained unsold, **did it not remain your own?** And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that **you have conceived this deed in your heart?** You have not lied to men, **but to God.**"

" Peter has prophetic insight

" The sharing of goods was voluntary

" His deceit was inspired by Satan

The Sharing of Goods: Acts 4:32-5:11

6

Immediate, Exemplary Judgment

Acts 5:5, 6 (NASB)

And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and **great fear came upon all who heard of it**. And the young men arose and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.

- " **Exemplary judgment** shows God's attitude toward sin
- " This does not imply that every time someone lies in the church they will die on the spot
- " This also emphasizes Peter's apostolic authority

The Sharing of Goods: Acts 4:32-5:11

7

Their Conspiracy Is Exposed

Acts 5:7-9 (NASB)

Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, **not knowing what had happened**. And Peter responded to her, 'Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?' And she said, 'Yes, that was the price.' Then Peter said to her, 'Why is it that you have **agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test**? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they shall carry you out as well.'

- " Peter speaks authoritatively for God
- " See Heb. 3:8 for testing God (wilderness wanderers)

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8

The Church Has a Strong Fear of God

Acts 5:10, 11 (NASB)

And she fell immediately at his feet, and breathed her last; and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And **great fear came upon the whole church**, and upon all who heard of these things.

- " This too is exemplary judgment
- " God does not change, so we can learn from this incident
- " "all who heard" would include outsiders

The Sharing of Goods: Acts 4:32-5:11

9

The Danger of Testing God

Hebrews 3:7-9 (NASB)

Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As in the day of **trial** in the wilderness, Where your fathers **tried** Me by **testing** Me, And saw My works for forty years."

" This is from Psalm 95:8-10 based on Exodus 17:2, 7

" "tried" here is peirazo_ as it is in Acts 5:9

" This term is used with prefix in Matthew 4:7

" This is a failure to believe that God is in our midst and so doubt His promises; like Israel (Num. 14:11, 22)

The Sharing of Goods: Acts 4:32-5:11

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