

# Multiply | Give

## Acts 4:23-37

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### I. Foundational Truths about Money and Possessions

1. God is the owner, we're the steward. (1 Chron. 29:11-13)

*Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. 11Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is Yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head above all. 12Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all. In Your hand are power and might, and in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.*

—1 Chronicles 29:10-12

*The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, declares the Lord of hosts.*

—Haggai 2:8

2. God gives money so that money can be given. (1 Tim. 6:17-19)

*As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share*

—1 Timothy 6:17-18

3. We don't need to have a lot to be generous. (Lk. 21:1-4)

*Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts*

*into the offering box, 2and He saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. 3And He said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. 4For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."*

—Luke 21:1-4

4. Every spending decision is a spiritual decision. (Matt. 6:19-21; 1 Chron. 29:11-13)

*"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

—Matthew 6:19-21

5. We reflect God's heart when generosity is a way of life. (Jn. 3:16-17)

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 17For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.*

—John 3:16-17

## **II. A Generous Worshipping Community (Acts 4:23-37)**

*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. 33And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and*

*brought the proceeds of what was sold 35and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. 36Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, 37sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

—Acts 4:32-37

a. Missional unity inspired amazing generosity. (Acts 4:32; 2:42-47; 2 Chron. 30:12)

*And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, 30while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 31And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.*

—Acts 4:29-31

*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.*

—Acts 4:32

b. The Gospel was a powerful motivator for generous living. (Acts 4:33; 1 Jn. 4:10,19)

*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 4:33

*There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had*

*need.*

—Acts 4:34-35

c. When needs were made known, they were quickly met. (Acts 4:34)

*Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

—Acts 4:36-37

d. Every possession was held with open hands. (Acts 4:35-37)

### **III. Becoming a Generous Worshipping Community**

1. Allow mission to drive your generosity. (Matt. 6:19-21; Acts 1:8)
2. Ask God to grow you in your generosity. (Acts 4:36-37)
3. Learn to live on less and give more. (1 Tim. 6:17-19)
4. Practice regular, cheerful, and sacrificial generosity. (2 Cor. 9:6-7)

*whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

—2 Corinthians 9:6-7

### **Study Questions:**

1. For most of us, talking about money is uncomfortable. However, Jesus talked more about money and possessions than any other topic. Discuss why you think Jesus spent so much time on this topic. What does this teach us about money and possessions? Also, what does it say about us as human beings? Explain.
2. Read Acts 4:32-37. This is an amazing picture of a vibrant, generous community of believers. What most stands out to you when you read about how they related to one another? Be specific. (See Acts 2:42-47 as a further comparison). How does

this church's generosity challenge your understanding of what it means to be generous? Explain.

3. As you prayerfully consider your part in Multiply, think about how God might want to grow you in your generosity? Share as much as you're comfortable sharing with your group. In this week's sermon, we were challenged to reflect on what it might take for us to become a Generous Worshipping Community (see above). Which of these do you feel needs your attention? Share with your group. Then, commit to pray for one another as you continue to seek how God might be leading you.

### **Prayer Points**

- Meditate on 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal whether your hope is in God or the money He's given you. If necessary, confess your misplaced hope and ask God for the grace to fix your hope on Him alone.
- Reflect on God's generosity towards you (see John 3:16-17). Spend some time giving thanks to God for loving you so much that He'd send His own Son for you.
- Pray this prayer: God, in response to your generosity towards me, I want to become more generous myself. Therefore, show me how you want to grow me in my financial generosity. What would you have me commit to give towards Multiply?