

September 4, 2022

Take care

Acts 4:32-5:14

Selflessness stands in stark contrast to much of the world.

On the contrary, much of modern society is fixated on obtaining more and becoming enriched at the expense of others. The most admired people are the ones who can accumulate the most rather than give the most away. That's why it is often the case that the wealthiest communities are where you'll find some of the most impoverished people. The sad part is that the ones who end up the emptiest as a result are not the people who fail to receive. It is the ones who fail to give generously that truly suffer the most.

THINK IT OVER

Are you as generous as God has asked you to be or as you may have led those around you to think?

32 The community of believers was one in heart and mind. None of them would say, "This is mine!" about any of their possessions, but held everything in common. 33 The apostles continued to bear powerful witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and an abundance of grace was at work among them all. 34 There were no needy persons among them. Those who owned properties or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds from the sales, 35 and place them in the care and under the authority of the apostles. Then it was distributed to anyone who was in need.

1) Move from a "this is mine" mindset to a "this is for you" way of life.

THINK IT OVER

What do you hold onto and not share with anyone? Why?

5 However, a man named Ananias, along with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. 2 With his wife's knowledge, he withheld some of the proceeds from the sale. He brought the rest and placed it in the care and under the authority of the apostles. 3 Peter asked, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has influenced you to lie to the Holy Spirit by withholding some of the proceeds from the sale of your land? 4 Wasn't that property yours to keep? After you sold it, wasn't the money yours to do with whatever you wanted? What made you think of such a thing? You haven't lied to other people but to God!" 5 When Ananias heard these words, he dropped dead. Everyone who heard this conversation was terrified. 6 Some young men stood up, wrapped up his body, carried him out, and buried him. 7 About three hours later, his wife entered, but she didn't know what had happened to her husband. 8 Peter asked her, "Tell me, did you and your husband receive this price for the field?" She responded, "Yes, that's the amount." 9 He replied, "How could you scheme with each other to challenge the Lord's Spirit? Look! The feet of those who buried your husband are at the door. They will carry you out too." 10 At that very moment, she dropped dead at his feet. When the young men entered and found her dead, they carried her out and buried her with her husband. 11 Tremor and dread seized the whole church and all who heard what had happened.

2) Stop 'pretending' to follow God perfectly. Lying will only steal life away from you.

THINK IT OVER

Have you ever felt like you were 'pretending'?
How did this make you feel?

12 The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. They would come together regularly at Solomon's Porch. 13 No one from outside the church dared to join them, even though the people spoke highly of them. 14 Indeed, more and more believers in the Lord, large numbers of both men and women, were added to the church.

3) The good things you do will always speak for themselves. Do one more good thing,

THINK IT OVER

What is one good thing you can do today or this week? What's holding you back from doing it?