

013 - Acts 4:32-37 "One Heart and One Soul"

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 32:37-42

Confession of Sin: Ezekiel 36:25-28

Sermon: "One Heart and One Soul" Acts 4:32-37

Benediction: Romans 15:5-6

INTRODUCTION

The church prayed that God would help them speak the word of Christ boldly, bravely; speaking more generally, they prayed that God would help them obey the commands of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. They also prayed that God would do miraculous things through the apostles, to prove the truth of the church's message about Christ. Their prayer was answered, and we now turn to the next paragraph of the story to see the results of how the Lord helped them.

Read the Text: Acts 4:32-37

Acts 4:32-37 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. (33) And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. (34) Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, (35) and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need. (36) And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, (37) having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

I. The Lord Blessed Them with Unity

A. the nature of the unity: it was thorough (32a)

1. mind, but not the mind only---also the affections
2. outward, but not outward only---also inward
3. spiritual, but not spiritual only---also temporal (32b)
 - a. no one thought of his possessions as exclusively his
 - b. they held that all their possessions were for the common good

B. the results of the unity: we'll come back to that

II. The Lord Blessed Them with Unction (33a)

A. the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord powerfully

B. this is essentially what unction is in this context

III. The Lord Blessed Them with Favor (33b)

A. or "great grace" literally "mega charis"

B. the way the Lord was granting them this unity and unction was giving them favor in the eyes of the people; see this by reviewing Acts 2:42-47

I. (cont'd)

1. there was not anyone among them who lacked (basic necessities)
2. why was this?
 - a. All who possessed lands and houses sold them and laid the money at the apostles' feet
 - b. The apostles then distributed the money to whomever had need

of it; we learn later in the NT that it was primarily the widows and the preachers

3. APPLICATION: Should we do this?

-Should we have this mindset, and these affections? YES!

-Should we do exactly this?

a. study the commands of the Lord that taught about this: Luke 12:29-34

-do not treasure this world's wealth

-do not be anxious about your physical needs

-when you have a surplus, and others lack basic necessities, sell and give alms

b. study the whole bible on this subject (there's alot!)

c. take inventory of your possessions

i. what is the nature of your possessions---are they being used in important ways, or just being wasted?

d. study the circumstances in Acts 4, and compare with ours

i. They had been told by the Lord Jesus Christ that Jerusalem would be destroyed within one generation. Whatever they held in that area would be taken from them, and if they stayed with it, they would be killed

ii. There were many among the believers who were there on a pilgrimage, which then was extended for sake of the Kingdom

-family that was here to get to the midwife

-students studying for the ministry

iii. The needy were disqualified from the public welfare system.

-in chapter six we read of many destitute widows

-they did not become so when they were converted; they had previously been supported out of the temple system, but now were disqualified because of their Christianity

iv. are there circumstances in your present situation that create such a need?

IV. The Lord Blessed them with Example

A. Here we need Barnabas

B. He had that unity,

1. shown by how he was so encouraging to the believers that he gained "Son of Encouragement" as a nickname

2. shown by how he sold property and gave the money to the church

Pugh:

Three ways God's grace was upon them

1. giving them one heart and soul
2. giving the apostles power to preach the resurrection of Christ
3. giving them a spirit of shared property

Savastio:

All of these good things are flowing out of the preaching of Christ risen from the dead!