

BOOK OF ACTS // WEEK 7

WHEN THE CHURCH IS GREAT // PART 1

Jason Brinker - 10/22/23

GROWING TOGETHER

Answering these growing together questions may make people uncomfortable. Don't press. The point of growing together questions is to get to know people a little better each week. Keep in mind, their level of comfort is what will determine the speed of transparency and vulnerability.

- Share about a time you have been the beneficiary of someone's extreme generosity.
- In your walk with Jesus, when did/do you feel the most generous?

GROWING WITH GOD

Read [John 17:20-21](#), [Acts 4:29-37](#), [Romans 5:8](#), & [1 Corinthians 16:2](#) aloud and go over your sermon notes with one another. (Answer all or some of the questions)

We read in Acts 4:36-37 a man named Joseph sold a field he owned and brought the proceeds of the sale and laid it at the feet of the Apostles. Because of this generous act, the Apostles called him Barnabas which means The Son of Encouragement. Luke only tells us of this one act but there may have been others.

- **How much faith do you think it took for Barnabas to sell his field and donate the proceeds?**
- **Do you think he considered how selling his field might impact his family or livelihood?**

Acts 4:32 says, "All the believers were one in heart and mind." Pastor Jason reminded us of the one thing that unifies us and draws us together; it's simply Jesus. Jesus is where unity comes from.

- **How do we stay unified as a church and as a Life Group even though we may be from different cultures, socio-economic backgrounds, financial situations, political ideologies, and stages of life?**

We often think of generosity as the giving of something such as gifts, time, friendship, etc. Have you ever thought about generosity being a response to God because of who He is and what He has done for us? Through God's generosity we are entrusted to be the stewards of His resources. We must be generous because God is generous with us.

- **How does this perspective of generosity shape the way you worship God and the stewardship He has entrusted you with?**
- **How do you leverage your blessings so you can be a blessing?**
- **Share how your views of generosity have changed over time through life experiences.**

During this week's message we see the theme of generosity between believers. They gave so they could provide for one another. They also gave so they could fund the ministry of the Apostles who were given the command to "...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you". This is also our command as Christians.

- **What would your community look like if all of God's people were generous with their financial resources?**
- **What would the world look like if all of God's people used the financial resources God blessed them with to fund the work God commanded all of us to do?**
- **If you came into a large sum of money, What would you do with it?**

GROWING IN OBEDIENCE & SCRIPTURE

Last week Pastor Jason asked us to memorize [Acts 4:12](#). How did you do? What memorization aids do you use that may help others?

Take this week to consider how your Life Group can be like the early church by blessing others through generosity. There are several local [Mission Partners](#) your Life Group can reach out to assist. Building a relationship with one or several of them is a great way to continually demonstrate God's love and generosity to your community and His desire for oneness within the church.

Pray this week about how you are using the financial resources God has blessed you with. [Malachi 3:10](#) tells us what we should be doing in this regard. If 10% (or tithing) seems to be too financially demanding right now, consider starting at a lower percentage of the income God has blessed you with and work towards increasing that percentage over time.

Where God's Spirit is filling there is Unity. Acts 4:32

Where God's Spirit is filling there is Generosity. Acts 4:34

Where God's Spirit is filling there is Loving Care. Acts 4:36-37

GROWING WITH CATALYST PEOPLE

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