

## The Witness Lifestyle: Radical Generosity

Text: Acts 4:32-37

March 4, 2023

**Big Idea:** B/c Jesus lived a life of radical generosity; a faithful witness will increasingly do the same.

**Context is key!**

### Question #1 (Context)

*Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?*

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

### Question #2 (Context)

*Ask Yourself: What does the text say about God and about me?*

- a) Is God saying or showing something about Himself? If so, what?
- b) Do the words in the text predict, prophesy or picture something about Jesus? If so, what?
- c) Is God saying or showing something about us? If so, what?
- d) Does the text point to my need for Jesus? How?

### Question #3 (Context)

*Ask Yourself: What are the principles, commands or promises given?*

- a) What is the overall theme of the text?
- b) Does the passage include any promise from God? If so, what?

### Question #4 (Context)

*Ask Yourself: What is the application?*

- a) What is one specific way I can live by these truths, or trust in these promises today?
- b) What is the next step that I need to take to see this happen?

### Question #5

- a) How does this world define generosity?
- b) How does God define generosity? (Use Scriptures and share them)
- c) How did Jesus live a life of radical generosity?
- d) What area(s) do you struggle in the most to live radically generous with? Why?
- e) Spend time in accountability praying for one another and inviting follow-up.

A witness that is radically generous for Jesus...

### Point 1: **PURSUES UNITY** in Jesus (v. 32)

*Question: A generous witness is a unified witness. Are you pursuing unity?*

### Question #6

- a) **Rd. v. 32:** What does Luke mean in describing all the believers as being of one heart and soul?
- b) What is the foundation for all true unity (and generosity) in the Church? (Hint: Eph. 4:3 & 4:13)
- c) Why is unity in the faith essential for a life of radical generosity with one another?

### Question #7

- a) **Rd. John 17:23:** Why is unity in the church essential for a faithful witness?
- b) What hinders our unity with one another? How does it do this?
- c) What area(s) do you need to repent of that are hindering your unity with your brothers and sisters?
- d) Spend time in prayer repenting of these areas and asking the Lord for His help in overcoming them.

### Question #8

- a) **Rd v. 32:** What three ways do we see in this verse for how we pursue unity and grow in generosity?
- b) Which of these areas do you find hinders your generosity the most? Why?
- c) What fruits are shown in your life when you are not being faithful in that area?
- d) What are thinking in those moments?
- e) What is it that you really want in those moments? Why?
- f) How does the gospel free you and empower you to overcome that? Use Scripture to support.

A witness that is radically generous for Jesus...

### Point 2: **PRACTICES GENEROSITY** through Jesus (vv. 33-37)

*Question: God empowers the witness of the generous. Will you give generously?*

### Question #9

- a) **Rd vv. 33-37:** What are four outcomes that resulted through the disciples' generosity?
- b) What did the disciples do with the proceeds they had? What does this mean?
- b) Why is a united and radically generous church such a witness for this world?
- c) What opportunities has God put in front of you in the church to live with a radical generosity of your time, talents and treasure?
- d) Pray as a group and support one another in taking on these opportunities with the urgency of the gospel.

### Question #10

- a) What is the gospel?
- b) Write out your answer as if you had 3 minutes to share it with someone.
- c) Who has God put around you to share the gospel with this week?
- d) Ask for prayer from your small group and have at it!

### Prayer Application

Spend time as a group or in accountability praying out of Acts 4:32-37. Some prompts are below.

- a) **ADORATION:** Lord, You are a generous God who gives\_\_\_\_\_
- b) **CONFESSION:** Lord, I repent of...i) My lack of generosity with\_\_\_\_\_ ii) My sin of\_\_\_\_\_
- c) **THANKSGIVING:** Jesus, thank you for Your generosity towards me in\_\_\_\_\_
- d) **SUPPLICATION:** Lord, I ask you for...i) Increasing generosity with\_\_\_\_\_ ii) Boldness in\_\_\_\_\_

### Memory Verse:

*"Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the inns that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common."-Acts 4:32*

