

Acts of the Apostles 4:32-5:11 _ Lesson 14

Kingdom Provision and Punishment

1. Acts 4:32-34 – Kingdom Provision

- a. The kingdom of heaven is like... Matt 13:44-46; Lk 12:33; 14:33; 18:22, 28-29
- b. This passage is a picture of God's kingdom provision – Matt 6:11, 30-34
- c. 4:32 - "*was his own*" – communal – which is what we saw in Acts 2:44
- d. They still had things, but did not consider them their own - Ac 12:12
- e. 4:34 - "*none lacked*" – because they sold and gave to the poor

2. Acts 4:34-35 – Apostolic Authority

- a. "*at the apostles feet*" – their authority, their rule over the little flock
- b. The apostles were the ones that distributed to those that had need as Jesus said
- c. Paul, in contrast, says men are responsible "*for his own*" - 1 Tim 5:8
- d. Paul collects for the poor saints in Jerusalem - Rom 15:26; Lk 6:20

3. Acts 4:36-37 – Two Examples

- a. Barnabas sold his land in Gentile Cyprus to stay in Jerusalem (a Levite)
- b. Why is he mentioned? He was a priest, he was scattered, it is important later
- c. Barnabas would be Paul's companion – Acts 9:27, 11:22; Acts 13:1-2
- d. It is important to identify him with Peter, to acknowledge Paul from the Lord
- e. He mediated, fought for, defended, suffered, and ministered with Paul everywhere
- f. Barnabas eventually starts working to provide for his own - Acts 11:25-30; 1 Cor 9:6
- g. The last we hear of him he goes back home (not Jerusalem) – Acts 15:39

4. Acts 5:1-15 – Kingdom Judgment

- a. 5:3 - Their sin was not simply lying, but keeping back part of the price of the land
- b. Their sin was deliberate, deceptive, and contrary to commands – Matt 19:21-24
- c. Theirs was a sin that led to death – 1 John 5:16-17 as was Acts 12:23
- d. Supernatural knowledge and unity is what separates this from modern communes
- e. "*great fear*" – natural result of the Lord's power – Ro 13:7, 1Ti 5:20, 2Co 5:11, 7:1
- f. When the righteous rule, the people rejoice – Prov 29:2; Isaiah 26:1-2
- g. 5:12-15 – Here is apostolic authority of the people, by the people, for the people...
 - i. 12 – Signs, wonders, healings (kingdom blessing) wrought for the people
 - ii. 13- Apostles magnified by the people who are separate from liars
 - iii. 14 - Believers were added of the people both men and women