

All Things in Common

Pastor Fred Calkins
Midland SDA Church
November 22, 2025

Sermon based on Acts 4:32 – 5:14

Scripture Reading: Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal # 821 Generosity

The story starts with the **Holy Spirit's power!**

Acts 4:31 – tangible evidence of the Holy Spirit's presence.

We must be seeking this,
praying for it,
living in expectation!

There will be **clear evidence** of the experience.

More than tongues.

Especially, Bold Witness

Compassionate sharing with those in need.

Some families rejected the converts!

People lost their livelihoods.

These things are currently happening.

The need remains that we **share generously**.

v. 32 & 33

People shared what talents they had – **time, influence, money**.

Little is much when God is in it.

God still multiplies resources as they are shared.

Remember the loaves and fishes of Matt. 14:17

Your 'little' may be His needed start!

Follow **Jesus' example** – His poverty makes us rich!

v. 34 & 35

Understand the **difference** between *needs and wants*.

Both for the one sharing and the one in need

Evaluate whether this is a need or a want.

Food, Shelter, Clothing, Safety.

Expect to live with a level of **sacrifice**.

v. 36 & 37

Barnabas is noted and recognized for the first time.
His name is translated – “Son of **Encouragement**” or
– “Son of **Comfort**”

May we each exemplify this title!

5:1-2 – How did some people respond?
Throughout time, people are people.
Some will do right, while others will ‘**game the system**’.

By giving to the cause,
one could draw from the common store.
Responding to the Holy Spirit's outpouring, Ananias & Sapphira committed to give,
but **saved out some** for a rainy day. (*fear* response)
Thus, they would benefit from both sides.
But **pretense is lying**.
Selfishness is sin.

v. 3 – 6
There was **no earthly way** Peter could know of their deceit.
But **God will not be mocked**.
While He usually ignores such foolishness
– this early in Church history, He could not.
Choices always have consequences – early or late.
God, in love, always tells the truth.
Love also always gives choice.
Sin kills (Romans 6:23)
God is not vindictive.

We are all on life support.
We live in the land of the dying! 99.999...% mortality
In mercy, God gives us time to choose.
Usually, people ‘get away’ with their foolishness.
But **occasionally, just consequences are swift**.
Nadab & Abihu, Uzzah, Ananias & Sapphira are examples
God is long-suffering – II Peter 3:9

v. 7 – 10

Coconspirators are equally guilty.

Choose a life of integrity!

v. 11 – 14

Supernatural manifestations of God's power continued.

I pray for **wisdom – when to call (ask) for a miracle.**

I also pray for **discernment:**

May I recognize God's miraculous hand

– in my life and

– in the lives of others.

Summary:

The work will close with **similar experiences** as it opened!

Selfishness will cease in the lives of the faithful.

We will readily **sacrifice** for the common good.

People will be fed.

Buildings will be built.

Needs will be met.

Lives of **integrity** will be normal Christianity again.

Many will lukewarmly continue to live with

fear and selfishness.

Pledge today to be a Barnabas.