

**Sunday, October 12, 2025**  
**Sierra Vista Community Church, Las Cruces, NM**  
**Acts Sermon Series: Pray Send Go**  
**It's all God's, Acts 4:32-37**

**Introduction—**

We live in a tough world. One moment you are on top, the next moment you are nothing. Even Jesus was up and down as He wove His plans into society. Jesus knew that nothing on this earth is truly ours.

**Ecclesiastes 5:15**—Everyone comes naked from their mother's womb, and as everyone comes, so they depart. They take nothing from their toil that they can carry in their hands.

How much stuff do you own? No, really, what is it that is really yours? What it is that makes it yours. Your car, your clothes, your house, etc—they are considered yours because you bought them. There seems to be a breakdown when it comes to Christians and possessions. We take the same attitude as others when it comes to our stuff. We believe we have the right to claim it since it is in our possession. We even say things like "possession is 9/10's of the law," which all that is saying it is easier to maintain ownership if we control it.

So, what am I trying to get at today? Why the sermon on possessions? I am always glad you ask these great questions. Well, I believe that we are to hold our stuff loosely. I didn't say don't take care of your stuff. We should take care of what God has loaned us. It isn't so we can hang on tightly to our stuff, but to remember that all that we have is a gift from God. If you have a little or you have a whole lot, it is all a gift from God. We should treat it as such.

We should invest in the Kingdom of God!

**Stand & Read—Acts 4:32-37**

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all 34 that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. 36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), 37 sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

**Pray**

**I have 3 points that I want to make today.**

1. God owns everything.
2. God owns everything.
3. God owns everything.

- When a person is a follower of Jesus, there is a transformation that takes place in the heart and in the mind. You start to think different. You start to react different. You start to believe different. You are different.
- If these things aren't happening for you in your life, and you claim Jesus as your Lord, you may need to reassess who your Lord is. Lip service to Jesus doesn't change the heart and mind.
- **Verse 32**—All the believers were one in heart and mind.
- Wow, how can that be possible? What happened to these Christians that made them unified? They truly believed in a risen Jesus. Period.
- Billy Graham, the greatest evangelist of our time said this of the western cultured church. He believed that many within the walls of our congregations are not truly born-again believers. This is a general statement.
- True believers unite and are together. I am so grateful for this place of peace that we can come to each and every week to be lifted up, encouraged, and yet challenged to make sure we know who Jesus really is. That is what is really all about!
- **Verse 32**—No one claimed any of their stuff. They shared everything.
- This is why we give to our church. I say we because although I am a paid staff member, we also give in tithes and offerings. I can't ask you to do that if I won't do that.
- We share our resources with the knowledge that we don't own anything.
- **Acts 2:44-45**—**44** All the believers were together and had everything in common. **45** They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.
- **Verse 33**— With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was powerfully at work in all of them.
- Do you want the grace of God to work powerfully in our church family?
- The way this happens is by testifying about the resurrection of Jesus.
- When we testify about Him, not us, His power is promised to be on display!
- **Romans 8:10-11**—**10** But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. **11** And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.
- We tell others about Jesus with great power!
- **Verse 34**— that there were no needy persons among them.
- If needs could be met among the poor early church of Jesus Christ, surely in today's western culture of churches, needs can be met.
- There should be no needs among us if we are united in oneness to Jesus.

- **Verses 34-35**—For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales <sup>35</sup> and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.
- **Illustration**—When we lived in Del Rio, TX, a family sold their house as they were moving on to their new assignment. I was asked as their pastor if there was a specific need that they could tithe their proceeds to. I said, well there are some needs but what we really need is to create a benevolence fund. You see we were a new church of around 2 years, so we didn't have the resources yet to give to those needs, but I saw this as an opportunity to set up a fund to be ready.
- As a church, we should have a benevolence fund, which we do. With a benevolence fund, when a need arises, there are some resources to help give to that. So, this particular family gave to the newly created benevolence fund.
- I never recommend that people designate their giving, especially when the budget needs to be funded first. That is the difference between the tithe, which goes to the local church budget, and then an offering, above and beyond the tithe to be given, if you choose to, a specific fund, like a benevolence fund, or a mission's offering.
- We share are treasures, our talents, and our time, so there is no need among us.
- The first followers of Jesus set out this example for us to continue in, as we set our minds and hearts on Kingdom principles.
- **Verse 36-37**—36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), 37 sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.
- This is just a glimpse of who Barnabas was. We will spend a lot of time studying Barnabas, but for now, this is a sneak peek.
- Luke wants us to see here how true followers of Jesus live. They know that how to believe in a Kingdom mindset.
- This illustration shows us that there is purpose in placing our treasures (money if you will) in a local church that is doing the will of God.
- Barnabas knew how important the local church is. He himself is a product of the local church. He is being called out by God to become a missionary.
- He knew the Apostles were going to help him in his quest. He gave to God's work.
- **Illustration**—Next week, we will study **Acts 5**, where an Ananias and Sapphira, a unique couple who decided to lie. In their lies, God struck them dead for their arrogance to lie to God. The sermon will be titled "think before you lie."
- If you knew God were to strike you dead the next time you lie, there is no way you would do it. You never know if He will, so be careful when you lie.
- The moral of the text is this: All phony Christians will eventually end up spiritually dead anyway, so God just got a head start on this couple.
- There is a godly way to live, and then there is our way to live. Our way is no good. It always ends up on a dead-end street.

- God's way tells us to share our possessions that God has given to us, since all we do is manage His stuff.

**Application**—Have you been a generous Christian? Do you want to be? Begin to hold the possessions He gave you loosely. Let God be your financial advisor. Let God control your stuff.

**Conclusion**—Do you want Jesus to be your King! Is He? Have you allowed Him to truly be your Lord? Do it today and begin to live the life you never thought you could.

**Pray**