

“CHARTING OUR COURSE: The Right Provisions”

Sunday, May 3, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
Whitneyville Bible Church, Alto, MI
Pastor Jonathan DeCou
Acts 4:32-37

BIG IDEA: We will generously serve and provide for one another.

“Since God extravagantly lavishes His goodness and grace on us, we obediently utilize our God-given spiritual gifts to humbly serve others. We demonstrate love by abundantly providing for the spiritual and material needs of one another and the community around us.”

A Generous Community. (v32-35)

- A generous community is filled with the Holy Spirit.
- A generous community is unified.
- A generous community is selfless.
- A generous community is Gospel-centered.
- A generous community is graced and gracious.
- A generous community is strategically intentional.
- A generous community is locally accountable.

A Generous Individual. (v36-37)

- Barnabas readily identified with God’s people.
- Barnabas was materially open-handed.
- Barnabas was relationally others-focused.



An Ungenerous Example. (5:1-11)

- Ananias and Sapphira were self-serving.
- Ananias and Sapphira were deceitful.
- Ananias and Sapphira were severely judged.



LESSONS:

- 1) I can’t share what I don’t have.
- 2) Develop a personal financial plan.
- 3) Plan to generously give systematically and spontaneously.
- 4) Seldom repress a generous impulse.
- 5) Discover and deploy your spiritual gifts.

BIG IDEA: We will generously serve and provide for one another.

Read: Acts 4:32-37; 5:1-11; 2:42-47

Think: Think about the generosity of the early church and Barnabas in particular then ask yourself these questions: *When have you experienced unity like what is described in today’s text? Compare v32-35 with Acts 2:42-47. What qualities mark this church? What is the relationship between the Ministry of the Word and material generosity? Why does Dr. Luke include the brief bio on Barnabas and his generous example? How does the sad scenario of Ananias and Sapphira strike you after reading the previous paragraphs at the end of chapter 4? Were Ananias & Sapphira required to sell their land and give the proceeds to the Church? Why did this couple lie to the Church? How are they found lying to the Holy Spirit? Why the harsh judgement here?*

Do: How well does today’s Scripture passage describe your relationship with the Church? What would have to change in your life for such generous sharing to be possible? If necessary, look into either Dave Ramsey’s “Financial Peace University” or Rob West’s financial planning resources at MoneyWise.org. If you are not sure of your spiritual gifts, consider talking to your pastors about taking a spiritual gifts assessment and then find a ministry area in which to serve. WBC needs YOU!