

# DEVOTED

*ACTS 2:42-47*



*“were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds **to all, as any had need”***

**– Acts 2:45**

*“no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but **they had everything in common**”*

**– Acts 4:32**

*“there was **not a needy person among them**, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.”*

**– Acts 4:34-35**

*Why* did the first century church place such a great emphasis on ***benevolence?***

**THEY EMPHASIZED  
BENEVOLENCE  
BECAUSE JESUS  
COMMANDED HIS  
FOLLOWERS TO BE  
BENEVOLENT.**

*“**Give** to the one who begs from you, and **do not refuse** the one who would borrow from you”*

*– Matthew 5:42*

*“Sell your possessions, and **give to the needy**”*

*– Luke 12:33*



***“Contribute to the needs of saints”***

***– Romans 12:13***

*“do good to everyone and especially to those who are of the household of faith”*

*– Galatians 6:10*

**THEY EMPHASIZED  
BENEVOLENCE BECAUSE  
THEY RECOGNIZED  
THAT WE ARE JUST  
STEWARDS OF THE  
FUNDS ENTRUSTED TO  
US BY GOD.**

**Steward:** *“a person who manages another’s property or financial affairs.”*

*“neither did anyone say that  
any of the things he possessed  
was his own”*

*– Acts 4:32*

**THEY EMPHASIZED  
BENEVOLENCE BECAUSE  
THEY UNDERSTOOD  
THAT WORLDLY  
TREASURES ARE ONLY  
TEMPORARY.**

*“**had compassion** on those in prison, and...**joyfully accepted** the plundering of [their] property, [because they] knew that [they] had **a better possession and an abiding one.**”*

*– Hebrews 10:34*

***“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”***

***– Matthew 6:19-20***



**THEY EMPHASIZED  
BENEVOLENCE BECAUSE  
JESUS ASSOCIATED  
BENEVOLENCE WITH  
THE KINGDOM.**

*“One thing you still lack. **Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”***

**– Luke 18:22**

*“For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a **rich person** to enter the kingdom of God.”*

*– Luke 18:25*

Since Zacchaeus' benevolent actions resulted in "salvation" and the Rich Ruler's greed caused him to walk away from "the kingdom of God," we can conclude that discipleship necessitates benevolent mindedness.

*The sheep will “**inherit the kingdom**”  
because they gave food to the **hungry**,  
gave drink to the **thirsty**, welcomed  
**strangers**, clothed the **naked**, visited  
the **sick** and the **imprisoned**.*

*– Matthew 25:31-46*

*The goats will be dismissed “**into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels**” because they did not give food to the hungry or drink to the thirsty, they did not welcome strangers, clothe the naked, visit the sick or the imprisoned.*

**– Matthew 25:31-46**

***Our wealth, no matter how  
great or small, is entrusted to  
us by God, who is our Master.***

*Our **wealth** is really **His**  
**wealth**, and, as a result, we  
will give an account to Him  
one day for how we used it.*



