

Point Group Notes

Message from 2/4/24

Report from Local Missions

Getting to know you...

1. God has given us all different passions and interests. This leads naturally to us being interested in different things. What ministry did we hear from this Sunday that excited you the most? Why?
2. If you had unlimited resources and time and were unencumbered by “life,” what ministry would you start? Who would it serve? What would be your mission and measure of success?

Digging Deeper

In Acts 4:32-37, we see a physical response to the *boldness* that was prayed for. The followers of Jesus asked that God would give them the boldness to continue to share the gospel *despite* the consequences that they may face. We then see a passage that is almost identical to the end of Acts 2:42-47. With one main difference: while Acts 2 focuses on the community doing life together, Acts 4 shows us that they start *giving and sharing their wealth radically*. Have a look at the passage below and answer the following questions.

2 Corinthians 8:2-5

² In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵ And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

1. In the second verse, Paul praises the Macedonian churches for having joy despite being very poor. How is this even possible? What makes “joy” different from the “comfort” that comes from knowing all your needs are met?



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2. According to verses 3-4, the Macedonian believers gave beyond their means, eagerly participating in the act of giving. Why do you think people would have a heart of generosity after coming to a saving knowledge of Christ?
3. In verse 5, Paul mentions that the Macedonian believers first dedicated themselves to the Lord and then to the apostles. How does this order of priorities affect how we see generosity in the Christian community? And how can a shared commitment to Jesus as our leader influence how we give, individually and together?

Taking it Home...

1. Reflecting on the Macedonian churches' sacrificial giving (despite having nothing) as well as the sacrifice shown in Acts 4, how can we practically apply the concept of sacrificial giving in our lives today?
2. Isn't it interesting that the Macedonian church *pleaded* to be a part of the work of the Lord? What do you think would have to happen in your life to experience that type of desire for sacrifice?
3. Considering increasing our sacrifice, or even starting for the first time, can be a scary and stressful thing. How can your Point Group pray for you as you navigate what it means to apply this week's passage to your life?

