
Witness Unhindered:
“Grace Changes Everything (Even Our Bank Accounts)”
Acts 4:32-37

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

“Once we begin to understand and experience ‘wealth’ according to God’s definition of the term—that he himself is our only true riches and that in comparison to him money is a small and insignificant thing—our perspective on the value of persons will be reoriented. Our hierarchies of who is important and who is expendable, of who is noteworthy and who is not-worthy, of who deserves our friendship and who does not, completely fade away. Because in God’s economy, the poor in spirit—regardless of their so-called net worth—are the sole heirs of God’s riches.”

— Scott Sauls, *Irresistible Faith*

“Hospitality is not so much a task as a way of living our lives and of sharing ourselves. ... A life of hospitality begins in worship, with a recognition of God's grace and generosity. Hospitality is not first a duty and responsibility; it is first a response of love and gratitude for God's love and welcome to us.”

— Christine Pohl, *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*

“The American dream—that hoary mythology that hard work always guarantees upward mobility—has for more than a century made the U.S. obsessed with material success and the exhaustive striving required to earn it. ... The problem with this gospel—*Your dream job is out there, so never stop hustling*—is that it’s a blueprint for spiritual and physical exhaustion.”

— Derek Thompson, “Workism Is Making Americans Miserable,” *The Atlantic*

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

- Do any of the quotes above provoke thoughts for discussion?
- After reading through the passage together, ask your group what makes an impression upon them from the passage and why it strikes them.
- The early church knew that following Jesus meant more than believing the resurrection—it meant their lives would be forever changed by grace. What are one or two areas of your life where you have seen evidence of change in your heart? What are one or two areas you have struggled to hand over to Jesus, and why has it been so hard to trust him with those things?
- Acts 4 shows us that radical generosity comes from boldness produced by the Holy Spirit. Talk about your fears around the topic of money. What makes it hard to be open-handed? Have you felt shame or guilt from how you have handled or mishandled your money? Have you been plagued by an obsession with saving, bargain hunting, or extreme couponing?
- Barnabas was held up as an example of radical generosity. Who is someone in your life that has been that kind of example for you? How have they demonstrated generosity?
- Are there any lingering questions or doubts that you are wrestling with after having heard the sermon and read the passage?