

A WEEKLY WORD

April 7th , 2024

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READINGS: [Acts 4:32-35](#) [Psalm 133](#) [1 John 1:1-2:2](#) [John 20:19-31](#)

Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

This reminds me of the story of Jesus and the rich young man. When he asked Jesus what he needed to do to get into heaven, Jesus told him to sell everything he had and give to the poor and come follow him.

This story in Acts of the early church and how they were of one heart and soul struck a nerve in me. In our churches these days are we truly of one heart and soul? Would we do as the early church did and not claim ownership of our possessions? We live in a world that is truly materialistic, yet God hasn't demanded of us to sell all we have, just to give a tithe (10%) is required and offerings (above our tithe), are requested.

Right now there are people all over the world dying of hunger. Right in our city and towns in Newfoundland and Labrador there are countless homeless people, partly because there isn't enough housing, but mostly because the cost of rent is so high, minimum wage jobs and social programs won't pay the rent, let alone the cost of food and medicine. Food Banks are crying out for help because the demand is so high. I belong to a Neighbour in Needs group on Facebook, that is constantly asking for help for people in our province that goes above and beyond the food banks and social programming, because those can't meet the need out there.

We, as Christians, are expected to look after widows and children, the poor and the sick. It's written in the Bible, which we call our guidebook to living. We can't pick and choose what part of it we will follow, we have to answer the call. A lot of Christians are also part of the group of people in need, as well as the unchurched. Many non Christian people give what they can, and do what they can for those who need help. Do we?

Maybe in our prayer time today we can ask God what He would have us do.

Psalm 133:1 How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!