

SERMON NOTES 6 November 2022

sunnysidechurch

Exploring Identity, Lifestyle, and Values Living Simply

**Bible Readings: Deuteronomy 24:17-22 and Leviticus 23:22
Acts 4:32 – 37 and 2:42-47**

Questions for Discussion

1. In the Old Testament readings we read how the poor were to be provided. This Mosaic Law was for the whole community. In what way should we as individuals and governments who we elect be responsible for the poor and the disadvantaged.
2. How can we today follow the example of the church in Jerusalem “holding everything in common”, “not claiming any of our possessions as our own”, “give to everyone they have need”?
3. How can we be “rich” when there are so many “poor” in the world today?
4. How should “our identity in Christ” affect our approach to the poor?
5. How can we “simplify our lifestyle, grow in generosity, and live in contentment”

Main points of the sermon

The Old Testament and especially the book of Deuteronomy illustrates to us that God comes into all areas of life, nothing is outside the rule of God’s Kingdom.

We are all citizens of this country and we elect our MP’s to govern our country on our behalf. They are accountable to God for their actions and to us as our representatives. The Deuteronomy reading reminds us that we all have a responsibility for the poor and the disadvantaged. We have our part to play to hold governments to their responsibility and at the same time look at ourselves.

The reading from Acts 4 reminds us that there were no needy persons in the church at that time because they made personal sacrifices for those in need. In Acts 2:42 one of the 4 marks of the church is “fellowship”. The Greek word is “koinonia” and it means more like “caring and sharing”.

All of this means that we must ask ourselves what implications this has for “our identity in Christ”. Does this affect our “lifestyle”, our “generosity” and our “contentment in Jesus Christ”?