
Date: August 29, 2021 **Message Series:** In the Earliest Church

Title: Every Need Met **Scripture:** Acts 4:32-5:5

The benevolence of the earliest church:

1. _____

Acts 4:34-35 – 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.

Ephesians 4:28 – Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

2. _____

Galatians 6:10 – So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 – For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

3. _____

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Acts 4:32-5:5

1. Which error do you tend to believe more: "it is wrong to have" or "those in need should solve their own problems?" When have you found yourself thinking one of those errors?
2. Do you more so "look down upon" those with resources or those in need? If you don't believe you look down on either, which group do you tend to believe causes more of a problem for our country? Why? (Aren't you looking down upon them now?)
3. When have you been relationally connected to someone with an ongoing need? Talk about the joys and difficulties of that relationship.
4. When you see someone in need, do you tend to invest yourself relationally or walk away? Why?
5. When you meet someone in need, how long do you typically spend with the person before determining the "cause" of their need in your mind? Is it long enough to actually know?
6. If you aren't currently connected to a person with an ongoing need, why do you think that is?
7. In regard to benevolence, how is Bridges similar to the earliest church? How are we dissimilar?