

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: ACTS: SPIRIT LED. MISSIONS DRIVEN.
Title: A New Economy Part II
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WARM UP

1. We have been using the term God's New Economy to describe the New Testament Church. An economy is defined as "A system of interrelated activities" How does this help explain all the various parts of the Christian Life?

DISCUSSION

1. Read Acts 4:32. Why or how did they feel like what they owned was not their own? This can be a very challenging verse, but how does this apply today?
2. Talk about your view of how to use all things you have for the Kingdom of God?
3. In reviewing all the activities reported from the end of Acts Chapter 2 to the beginning of Chapter 5; how does it show the need for every member of a community to be doing its part?
4. Some of the activities were: great generosity, meeting the needs of people, devotion and awe, healings, preaching, arrests and persecution, people praising God, prophecy, shaking of the Holy Spirit, lots of unity, extreme sharing, teachings on Jesus and signs and wonders, plus many more not mentioned here. This paints an amazing picture of people doing one or two parts within the bigger activity. What is God prompting you to do? In other words what activity within God's larger economy are you being challenged in?
5. Where did Annanis and Sapphira miss the mark? Acts 5:3-4 show a key to the attitude of the couple. What was so wrong with how they approached giving?

Application:

1. These can be very intense and challenging stories. At the heart of things is a willingness to give up whatever God is asking. It's the spirit behind our actions that really count. Spend some time in silent prayer or in sharing with each other (whatever works for your group) what the Spirit is saying to you. Remember it's about where our hearts are with God, not what actions we do. However, our actions back up our hearts too. Answer this question: Where is my heart right now and what action(s) does God want me to do to follow up on?