

Acts 2:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

Analysis

Believers 'sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need' demonstrates love's practical expression. The Greek 'epidiedoun' (distributed) indicates ongoing action, not one-time event. This generosity wasn't forced leveling but need-based assistance. The phrase 'as every man had need' refutes both hoarding and indiscriminate giving - wisdom guided compassion. This models biblical stewardship: recognizing God owns all, we're trustees serving others.

Historical Context

Jerusalem's poverty (evidenced by Paul's later collection, Romans 15:26) was partly self-inflicted through persecution and partly due to economic marginalization. Diaspora Jews often maintained properties in distant lands while living in Jerusalem, explaining their ability to sell possessions.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does 'as every man had need' guide your generosity between enabling dependency and meeting genuine needs?
2. What possessions might God be calling you to sell or share to meet others' needs?

Interlinear Text

καὶ τὰ κτήματα καὶ τὰς ὑπάρξεις ἐπίπρασκον καὶ
And G3588 their possessions And G3588 goods sold And
G2532 G2933 G2532 G5223 G4097 G2532
διεμέριζον αὐτὰ πᾶσιν καθότι ἀν τις χρείαν εἶχεν·
parted them to all men as had every man need G2192
G1266 G846 G3956 G2530 G302 G5100 G5532

Additional Cross-References

1 John 3:17 (Good): But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

Proverbs 19:17 (Parallel theme): He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Luke 18:22 (Parallel theme): Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

Acts 11:29 (Parallel theme): Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:

Matthew 19:21 (Parallel theme): Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

2 Corinthians 9:9 (Parallel theme): (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.

Psalms 112:9 (Parallel theme): He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.

Luke 19:8 (Good): And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

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