

Acts 4:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

Analysis

The statement 'neither was there any among them that lacked' fulfills Deuteronomy 15:4's ideal - 'there shall be no poor among you.' The Greek 'endeēs' (lack) indicates genuine need, not desire. This economic sharing wasn't mandated redistribution but Spirit-produced generosity. The next phrase explains: voluntary property sales funded need-based distribution. This modeled kingdom economics where stewardship replaces ownership.

Historical Context

Jerusalem's church faced unique pressures: diaspora converts remaining after Pentecost needed support, and persecution cost believers employment. This voluntary communalism addressed crisis while demonstrating supernatural love. Later, Paul's collection for Jerusalem poor (Romans 15:26) suggests this system required external support.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Spirit-produced generosity create communities where none lack?
2. What distinguishes biblical voluntary sharing from political forced redistribution?

Interlinear Text

οὐδὲ γὰρ ἐνδεής τις ὑπῆρχον ἐν αὐτοῖς·
Neither for that lacked there any was among them

ὅσοι γὰρ κτήτορες χωρίων ἢ οἰκιῶν ὑπῆρχον
as many as for possessors of lands or houses was

πωλοῦντες ἔφερον τὰς τιμὰς τῶν πιπρασκομένων
sold them and brought the prices of the things that were sold

Additional Cross-References

Acts 2:45 (Parallel theme): And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

Luke 16:9 (Parallel theme): And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

Luke 12:33 (Parallel theme): Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

Mark 10:21 (Parallel theme): Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

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.

Deuteronomy 2:7 (Parallel theme): For the LORD thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the LORD thy God hath been with thee; thou hast lacked nothing.

Luke 22:35 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing.

1 Timothy 6:19 (Parallel theme): Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.