

Title: **"Not a Needy Person among Them" - How the Grace of God Makes a Generous People**  
Text: **Acts 4:32-37**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at [mercyhillchurch.org](http://mercyhillchurch.org).



## Big Idea

**Money.** It often gets ahold of us. Or, perhaps, better put: we often get ahold of it . . . and then refuse to let it go. But these early Christians, to our surprise, they are wildly generous. They have no problem releasing their wealth for the blessing of others. But how? Where does such a thing come from? In a word: **grace.**

### 1. The Facts

Because these Christians are of one heart and soul with one another, they are free and loose with their own thing—willing to let go of it, to leverage it for the good of others. They are attached and devoted to each other, not to their stuff.

They still had things that belonged to them, but they just didn't reckon it all as such. They didn't "say" it was theirs and only theirs. Something changed in the way they spoke about their possessions. They had *possessions*, but they weren't *possessed* by them. They considered their stuff ready for use to help any who had need. If that means selling it at some point, well I've already put it in God's hands. "It's his, it's yours; it's not really mine."

### 2. The Means

But now where does such generosity and self-sacrificial love come from? What are the means? What is enabling this behavior? It's not coming from the outside pressure of governing authorities. It's not from the moral law of God bearing its weight upon us until we finally break down and conform. It's not even from looking to Jesus as a good example and trying our best to follow in his footsteps. It's from grace. The grace of God comes to settle in our hearts like a stick of dynamite. We take it in and it detonates on the interior, lighting up everything, changing everything (cf. 2 Cor. 8:1-9)!

What is it that makes it so hard for us to disentangle and detach ourselves from money and wealth? Why does it have such a hold on us in the first place?

#### Promise #1: Status

Here's how I know I'm worth something. Here's how I know I'm better than you. Here's what sets me apart . . . I have money. But in the gospel, because of grace, Jesus offers you a status so much more substantial and lasting. He offers you right standing with God, now and forever. You know you're worth something not because of what you're able to do, but because of what he's already done for you . . . in grace.

#### Promise #2: Satisfaction

We see money as the key that opens the door to all the stuff that will satisfy. It unlocks the treasure chest. Money gives us access to whatever we want. That's why we struggle to let go of it. We think it's going to fill us . . . but it never does. Only Christ can!

#### Promise #3: Security

We struggle to let go of it because it's our cushion, our safety net. If we have money we feel like we'll be okay. If I need something I can buy it. If there's a health problem, we can pay for the right doctors to come in and fix it. So money provides this sense of control, stability, and security. Here again, though, the grace of God frees you up to be a generous person. You don't have to store all your stuff up in barns. You don't have to cling to your money like you're on your own. You're not. You're his. He's caring for you. He's keeping you safe (cf. Luke 12:22-23).



### Reflection Questions

- Which of the three promises listed above (Status, Satisfaction, Security) seems most tempting for you and your approach to money? What is it that makes it hard to let go, to be generous? Trace this out. Identify any breakdown in your believing and experiencing of the gospel. Fight for faith, confess your sin, and trust afresh in Christ and his grace.
- Read Mark 10:29-30. What do you think this means? How might you handle your money and possessions differently in light of what Jesus says here? Get practical. Make a plan.

W  
E  
L  
C  
O  
M  
E

SCAN TO FILL OUT A



CONNECTION CARD

Give online at [mercyhillchurch.org/give](https://mercyhillchurch.org/give) or text any amount to 84321 and follow the prompts.

## Our Mission & Values

*Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.*

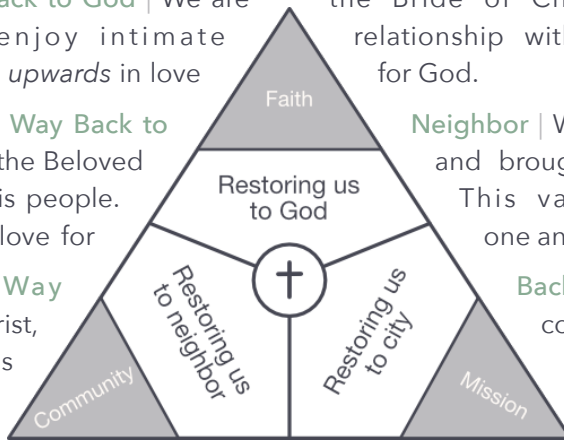
**FAITH:** The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

**COMMUNITY:** The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

**Neighbor** | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal This value presses our one another.

**MISSION:** The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the



**Back to City** | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.

## Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



**Mail:** PO Box 23806, San Jose, CA 95153  
**Phone:** (408) 320-7080  
**Email:** [info@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:info@mercyhillchurch.org)  
**Web:** [mercyhillchurch.org](https://mercyhillchurch.org)



Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.  
We are so glad you've joined us today!

## Announcement Spotlight

### All Church Appreciation Lunch - 12/3/23

Mercy Hill has so many wonderful people who keep all the various dimensions of our ministry thriving and fruitful. And we want to appreciate them! So immediately following the service on Sunday, December 3rd, we are planning to have a special all church lunch (think Pizza My Heart pizza party, with salad, dessert, etc.) as a way of saying thanks. The whole church is invited to stay after and participate as we look to particularly appreciate those who have served in various capacities throughout this last year. We hope you can join us!

Please scan the QR code below to find a link to RSVP.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us  
at [info@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:info@mercyhillchurch.org).

### Learning Lab - Evangelism & Disciple-Making - TODAY!

Ladies Christmas Tea!

Covenant Membership Class - 12/10/23

Share Thanksgiving (and Jesus) with International Students!

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement

Prayer Village Sign Up!

Want to Get Baptized?

All Church Prayer

Scan the QR code below for more info!

For clickable content and  
more announcements,



scan this code to head to  
our Communications Hub!

Or find it online at [mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub](https://mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub).