

Reflection for the Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4.32-35

The Acts of the Apostles states that “Everyone in the group of believers shared all they possessed, and they all had the same heart and spirit. No one claimed private ownership of any belongings. Not even one of them was in need, as everyone who possessed property sold it and brought in the money to cover their expenses. It was given to everyone as needed after being placed at the feet of the apostles.” (Acts 4:32–35).

This chapter describes the first Christian community and their testimonies of how God's power of resurrection enlivened the Church. Acts 4 depicts the church as a witnessing community that emerges in reaction to Pentecost and then dedicates itself to sharing, worship, teachings, and fellowship. Belonging to God entails becoming a part of a community and a covenant. Furthermore, belonging to God entails meeting the requirements of discipleship, abiding by the terms of a covenant, and experiencing the closeness of a group of people who are all working toward the same goal—following God. Thus, generosity and empathy towards the less fortunate members of their church community would characterize believers.

How do we share our resources, whether they be financial or not? It is true that being a part of God's community means giving of yourself and your resources to others, breaking down boundaries rather than establishing new social classes. Acts again focuses our attention on the people who are marginalized and need our attention. It talks of individuals who experience alienation, verbal abuse, and physical aggression, and people who are made to feel insecure or inadequate. It's important that we do this right because there are still a lot of struggling, lonely individuals in the world who need to feel a sense of belongingness, and vulnerable people who need to be protected. This Easter, we are called to serve as conduits for God's power, transforming lives in real and practical ways.