

**Acts 4:33-35:**

*4: 33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.*

**34-35:** The Old Testament promise to God's people that there would not be any poor among them (Deut. 15:4) was brought to fulfillment in the church by the generosity of the better-off members. Those who had estates or houses sold them and brought the proceeds to the apostles who then distributed them to the needy. <sup>1</sup>

**Acts 20: 35:** *In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."* <sup>2</sup>

Paul sought to be an example of helping the needy (Thes. 5:14) - And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them – and of living in accordance with the saying *It is more blessed to give than to receive*. This saying is open to misunderstanding, in the sense that the 'weak' or needy who depend on help and gifts from others may be regarded as less blessed than those who give to them; but clearly this is not what is meant, and the point is rather that it is better for a person who can do so to give to help others rather than to amass further wealth for himself. <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> I. Howard Marshall. *Tyndale New Testament Commentary on Acts*. Gen. ed. R.V.G. Tasker (Grand Rapids: Erdman's Pub. Co., 1988), 109.

<sup>2</sup> I. Howard Marshall. *Tyndale New Testament Commentary on Acts*. Gen. ed. R.V.G. Tasker (Grand Rapids: Erdman's Pub. Co., 1988), 336.