

The Strength of a Powerful Church!
Acts 4:32-35

Russell Cook
West End Church of Christ
Knoxville, TN

1. In the 3rd chapter of Acts, as Peter and John were on their way to the temple to worship, they came to a lame man sitting at the gate, begging for alms.
 - a. As they approached, he asked them for money, and you remember their response. Peter said, "**Silver or gold we do not have, but what I have I give you.**"
 2. These men were just ordinary, unschooled men. Yet one thing distinguished them from all the rest, "**they had been with Jesus.**"
 - a. These verses relate 3 essential ingredients of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. The church's unity, generosity, and great testimony.
- I. They Had Unity. "All the believers were one in heart and mind." (Acts 4:32)**
- A. Notice the three words mentioned in the first part of this verse.
 - B. What can you do with a unity like that?
- II. They Had Generosity. "No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had." (Acts 4:32)**
- A. Notice first the spontaneous expression of that unity.
 - B. Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan.
 - C. When you have been with Jesus, you become aware of people's needs.
- III. The Church Had A GREAT TESTIMONY. "With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was with them all." (Acts 4:33)**
- A. The great testimony of this church was its unity and its generosity.
 - B. The message of the cross is the power of God.
 1. **"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."**
(Romans 1:16)
 - C. God is building something lasting in us.