

UNSHAKEABLE

Generosity

Our commitments influence us and shape us.

We become like what we are committed to.

UNSHAKEABLE BIG IDEA:

In Christ, we are unshakeable!

⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

Acts 2:46-47 (NIV)

Jesus is King and Lord. He is first and before all things.

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. ³⁶ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 4:32-37 (NIV)

The 1st century church was fulfilling the responsibilities of the temple practices (Deuteronomy 14-17).

- Deuteronomy 14: Bring the tithe from the fields and the firstborn from the flocks.
- Deuteronomy 15: Cancel debts every seven years. Be kind and generous to the poor. Free the servant.
- Deuteronomy 16: Celebrate God by bringing Him your first.
- Deuteronomy 17: God is always to be King.

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

We are the temple of God who represents God's radical generosity and grace.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 (NIV)

We represent the radical grace of God because we've received God's grace.

³² "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. ³⁵ In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

Acts 20:32-35 (NIV)

The 1st century church became like who they were committed to.

- **We commit to put Jesus first in all things.**
- **Committing to generosity is a commitment to place Jesus first in my life and to become like Him.**
- **God is generous and so am I.**

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MY NOTES



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

The temple has always been a representation of God. The Torah, which is the Hebrew Law that God gave to Israel, showed that the temple and its governing laws were to represent the radical grace and generosity of God (Deuteronomy 14-17).

Jesus claimed that His body was the temple (John 2:21) and He taught His disciples that the Church was now the temple of God (1 Corinthians 6:19).

Luke describes in Acts 2-8 how the Church—the family of God—was representing the true temple through their commitment to Jesus as Lord. Because Jesus is Lord, the Church places Christ first in all things and it's evident in our generosity.

When we place Jesus first in our lives, it means placing Him first in all we have and all we are. When Jesus is first, we learn the true meaning of Jesus' words that "it is more blessed to give than it is to receive." (Acts 20:35) The more we are committed to Jesus by committing to generosity, the more like Jesus we become.

TALK-IT-OVER:

You will find the questions to discuss with others in the *Unshakeable Guide*.

You can access the *Unshakeable Guide* and more at <http://unshakeable.faith>

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

- Day 1) Malachi 3:9-11
- Day 2) Matthew 22:15-22
- Day 3) Acts 4:32-5:10
- Day 4) Psalm 37:20-22
- Day 5) Proverbs 11:24-26, 22:9
- Day 6) Luke 12:33-34