



# ACTS



# **THE TABOO OF MONEY**

**How we handle real estate,  
possession, money reveals the  
presence or absence of the Holy  
Spirit in our lives & community**

# **KINGDOM ECONOMICS**

The real questions are not whether this holy communalism, this sacred sociality, could or would be operative, be practical in this ancient world or any world, but what must it have been like to feel the powerful pull of the life of our savior, and what energy did it take to resist the Holy Spirit, to slow down this pull enough to withhold themselves and their possessions from divine desire.

Willie Jennings

1. Holy Spirit Empowered
2. Voluntary
3. Periodic
4. Need-Based
5. Private ownership

**Solidarity**

These followers of Jesus released themselves to one another, making themselves responsible for and accountable to one another....Money here will be used to destroy what money normally is used to create: distance and boundaries between people... Too often in our reading of this story our view is clouded by the spectacular giving and we miss the spectacular joining.

Willie Jennings



# Renunciation

One of the most destructive systems in our day is that of establishing value for land and for the buildings that sit upon it. This system socioeconomically alienates vast people-groups. WE make maps, we mark them up, and we divvy out the land to the highest bidder, as if it were no more than piece of artwork at an auction...Land, in more ways than one, belongs to God alone. Yet we treat the land as if we made it. We buy it. We sell it. And as a result, the value of land, and that of the structures that we build upon it, is determined by the market.

Richard Foster

1. Everything we have belongs to God.

2. Everything we have belongs to one another.

# **Generosity & Credibility**

The impious Galileans (Christians), in addition to their own, support ours, and it is shameful that our poor should be wanting our aid.

Emperor Julian

They walk in all humility and kindness, and falsehood is not found among them, and they love one another. They despise not the widow, and grieve not the orphan. He that hath distributeth liberally to him that hath not. If they see a stranger they bring him under their roof, and rejoice over him, as it were their own brother: for they call themselves brethren, not after the flesh, but after the Spirit and in God; but when one of their poor passes away from the world, and any of them see him, then he provides for his burial according to his ability...

Aristedes

and if they hear that any of their number is imprisoned or oppressed for the name of their Messiah, all of them provide for his needs, and if it is possible he may be delivered, they deliver him. And if there is a man among them that is poor and needy, and they have not among them an abundance of necessaries, they fast two or three days that they may supply the needy with their necessary food.

Aristedes

We must live in the kingdom of God in such a way that it provokes questions for which the gospel is the only answer.

Leslie Newbigin



**A NEW IMAGINATION FOR  
GENEROSITY**

# **Radical Class Distinction**

**Reflecting on the story  
of our hearts**

# **Normalizing communal transparency**

**Breaking the cycle of reciprocity  
and shame**