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Our father, we thank you that. But you had well to do from before the world began. Is to redeem for yourself. The people in christ. He being set over us and Working his character in us by his spirit. That we would be conformed to him. And serve you in this world and one another, with the things.

Of this world. And a way that displays him and his glory and his goodness. Over against. Satan. And Those who are Of him and his kingdom. And Such that is. Over against this world. We thank you and praise you. That an opponents of time. You did send your son.

And then he came to destroy the works of the devil. So that we might enjoy your. Creation. Provision. From our lord, from our savior. From our loved. And write all the more enjoying. His lordship, his salvation. Displaying. What he is like. As we employ the things in this world, And conformity to him.

Oh Lord. We pray that you'd help us. In our creatureliness. We need your spirit to give light that, we May understand. The remaining sin. Our hearts, often resist and Even when not resisting, or slow and sluggish. Against the good things that you teach us. But we would see jesus and we would be liking And glorify him.

So, help us by your spirit. In this time. We pray And his name. Remember.

It's a kind of the When you come to act four, The uh, The knob of what we often look at when we're thinking of Diagonal things. As in versus 32 to 37 or so. We're actually going to go back to verse 23. To pick up some contexts and Having studied to this point.

The theology of the purpose and use of Material things and God's design. In creation and especially in redemption. Uh, we'll be able to I hope understand very quickly. Without having to do too much extra. Exposition and cross-referencing. The context that. The spirit is giving us by luke. Here. And then, of course, we're also going to go into Uh, go forward and chapter 5 and verse 11.

And we'll see that. Uh when the lord jesus himself had invaded this world as god, who is here to save us, displaying himself as what perfectly righteous, humanity looked like. And Uh, giving us instruction. In the especially we looked at the sermon on the mount. For what it looks like to live as his followers in this world.

As those who are light in a world of darkness, as those who are salt, In a world of Purpose. Purposelessness. And corruption. And the lord gave us. Particular instruction. That. Um, When we live as light, we live, especially Uh, yes, in the midst of the world where people can see us, but unto God, and not unto the eyes.

Of men. And how important that becomes? In our employment of the good things of this world that he gives us to enjoy and employ. That it'll be for his sight to not for other sight. And, You know, the name's Ananias and saphira. Uh, drive that lesson home. Uh, to all generations that have the word of god.

Uh, so Again, the context of worship before. We get to this. Um, deactonal sharing this Service. And earthly things. Among the people of god. And they are. Uh, they're just now suffered some persecution. Uh, but they're not particularly worried about the persecution itself. Uh, for them, it's just a reference point to remind them.

Of the whole of redemptive history. Summarized by psalm 2. And so the fact that they've been persecuted by some rulers and of this age and even some rulers and what was at the time reporting to be the physical church. Um, Uh, all it did for it didn't discourage them, it just allowed them to locate themselves in.

Uh, in Psalm 2, it made things. It crystallized for them. What is happening? Just as Uh, if If we are giving up ourselves up to the lord scripturally, And, Uh, not being overly influenced by our circumstances, but Using the circumstances to locate where we are in god's instructions to us in scripture.

Someone makes themselves an enemy to you Um, You've all of a sudden, you've suddenly Uh, located where you are in, God's instruction to you love your enemies. So now, you know, just what to do with them. It's a very different thing, isn't it? When the, when the flesh. Experiences enmity.

And it is full of bitterness and maybe anxiety. And ventral spirit. And worry about what the enemy might do and all of those things. Uh, but if you have an enemy, And you're thinking not according to the flash in according to this vertical in the word of god. Oh, i know exactly what i'm supposed to do now.

And to love this person. Because they are my enemy. And, You know, church history and biography are full of examples of how the lord really has. For sinners just like we are normal people just like we are Taken. Those who are in sin redeemed them. Give them his spirit started, conforming their mind to christ.

And what powerful things gosh has done. Through the week off, scourings of the world such as his people. Um, often are considered to be And so that's actually what leads us. Into that verse 32 to 37 section, and next chapter 4, and i'm sorry. Midweek, there was still a stack of the papers.

Uh, back there. Uh, But i would have made more but i didn't recognize that they were gone. Um, So backing up to verse 23. And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. So when they heard that, They raised their voice to god with one accord and said, lord, you are god.

Who made? Heaven. And earth. And the sea. And, All that is in them. Which is a wonderful way to respond my dear children. And you're all my dear children, not just the ones who Came from me by ordinary generation as your catechism would call it. Um, there's a wonderful thing to start with.

When you are, In a situation where you are tempted to be distressed and someone has set themselves up against you Or even when. You are tempted to be selfish with others. You just start with lord, you are god who made heaven and earth and the sea and all that is in them.

So, you know, everything is from god and through god and to god, and now this god who has made all things and who to whom you belong. Is marked you off as yours. It's one of the reasons that you are baptized. Is because you are not only his creature.

Uh, but you are One of those people whom he. Has appointed for your life in this world. To be set apart into his visible church. And he gives you special privilege and ability to call him your own. In a way that those who do not have his mark, Uh, do not know, do not have the confidence.

That that they have the right to say that he is their own. God is your own? And not only is God your own, but he has spoken. So verse 25. Who by the mouth of your servant David have said. Why did the nation's rage? And the people plot vain things.

The kings of the earth took their stand. The rulers were gathered together. Against the lord and against us christ. Again. Psalm 2. Precious to me. That many of you like to request two in the blue, And sometimes to be in the red and we'll allow to a even though it's not the same two.

Uh, but that you sing. The history of everything and you like to do that. Praise god. And his own word. For truly. Now they're applying Uh, to their own situation truly against your holy servant, jesus. Whom you anointed. Both Herod and punches pilot. With the gentiles and the people of israel were gathered together.

To do, whatever your hand and your purpose, determined before to be done. And so there are remembering. If god's plan and purpose. Applies to the cross and we know that it does. Does you got Psalm 2 a thousand years before the cross? God said what would happen and then it happened so that as people would say.

Oh, God, planned and purposedness. If God's planning and purposing applies to the worst thing that has ever been done to the best one because ever lived. Then it applies to you, too. It applies to when you live. It applies to where you live. It applies to what the world does to you.

And it applies to. The questions among whom you live? In the church. Now lord will continue praying. Uh, in response to. Putting everything in. In that perspective, look on their threats. And grant to your servants. Whom do they just put themselves in a category with it? Just a david was the lord's servant by whom he wrote Psalm 2, Jesus came as the lord's anointed.

He has not only the lord god, but he took the form of a servant. When he became a man. And, They are servants with him. And we save all. Uh, i'm not very Uh, Very capable, i'm not very noteworthy as far as other people think. Why would my life be a big deal?

While your life is a big deal, not because you're a big deal, you're a servant. Your life is a big deal because of whom you're who, you're who you are. Master is Of who's servant, you're on. Your master is jesus. Um, I think there's someone who can't get in.

Sorry, we've got sticky doors. Um, And this is actually going to They're confidence in what god has done. And they're recognizing themselves as servants is going to connect to what they do with their property. So we don't just jump into 32. And say, oh communism because it's not. Uh, when we get to verse 32, we have a view.

Of what the these people who are united to christ. And live in his world. How they view? Their whole life and everything that they have. So now lord look on their threats and grant to your servants, That with all boldness, they may speak your word. By stretching out your hand to heal and that signs and wonders may be done.

Through the name of your holy servant. Jesus. And so they prayed to speak with boldness. And then they pray that the boldness. With which they speak. Will be confirmed and strengthened by what god also does. Now, there is a sign into wonder, that is greater. Then ill and injured people.

Being healed. And that is, Wicked and selfish people. Being conformed to christ, and that's actually in the context of the passage. That is what is going to go along with? The speaking with boldness. In two verses time. So, verse 31, when they had prayed. The place where they were assembled together was shaken.

They were all filled with the holy spirit, and They spoke the word of god with boldness. So, primary prayer requests, grant that we would speak with boldness. Grant to us, that recognizing that we are in Psalm 2. And that there is god's christ on the one side. And all who have power and ability and influence in this world, on the other side who are set against god and against us Christ.

And then you have two choices. You either among those who are trying to belong to yourself, And throwing off the chains of god. And his anointed or You are among those who kiss the sun. Who submit to him? Who rejoiced? That jesus reigns. Who in the midst of everyone else's raging.

Are much more concerned that you belong to him, who, when his wrath is kindled to just a little He's going to shatter. All of his enemies. You want to be one of those happy ones. End of song do. Who trust in him? And so they want to speak with baldness as part of god's giving them to Uh, understand and express.

That they genuinely do belong. To the lord jesus christ. This isn't just for. Apostles preaching. All christians should live. With boldness, as subjects of the lord, jesus christ. Rather than those who. Rage or perhaps, as is often the case? Cower at the range of others. Who are attempting to.

To force this world. According to their own desires and their own wins. Now, that is the context that brings us right up to verse 32. So i'll start, i'll reread verse 31. And then, read into Verse 32. When they had prayed. The place where they were assembled together was shaken.

And they were all filled with the holy spirit and they spoke the word of god. With boldness. Now, the multitude of those who believed, We're of one heart and one soul. This is exactly the opposite of psalm 2. Nations raging kings and peoples plotting in vain. The only thing they do agree about is getting rid of.

The lordship of god and the lordship of christ. But the raging and plotting continually against each other. So, miracle number one. Sign number one. The lordship of christ. They were of one heart. And one soul. Neither did anyone say? That any of the things he possessed was his own.

But they had all things in common. It is not neither, did any one possess anything as his own. Each still had his own possessions, didn't he? Because the miracle in the transformation. Is how each one thought of his possessions? How each one spoke of his possessions? That as one who belongs to christ.

Each one. Considered the things that he had and all that he is, and this ties directly to the midweek, sermon, doesn't it? Every part of who we are. Not just our, you know, limbs and and body parts. But every aspect of our life that is in god's providence has given to us We weaponize as servants as slaves unto god for righteousness.

And here. Is describing a people who are of one heart and one soul because instead of rejection to christ, there is glad submission to christ and recognition acknowledgment of him is

king. And they are weaponizing their own possessions, as servants for christ. That is not that they do not have possessions.

Possessions are not bad. Possessive people are bad. But when god gives those who possess things, To be his servants. And to be selfless. It displays what christ is like because he possesses all. But what does philippian how does Philippians do describe in? As the one who possessed even godhood.

But was not possessive. I thought, humbled himself. And gave himself. And so that's what's being described here is a conformity to the christ who has invaded the world. And showing that he has taken to himself a people who are now set over against the world. And one of the things that we must also conclude then, Is that those who receive?

Are not possessive. Of what the others had. It's not as explicit isn't. But when you see neither, did anyone say that any of the things, he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. That does imply. Doesn't it that the poor among the believers are those who had been poor?

Did not. Consider it their right. To receive from their brother. The thing that their brother had in the providence of god and gave to them even the poor Considered. To be a gift from god for the glory of god. Oh, this is very different. Then the communistic socialistic mindset that enters into the world.

Um, A big part of which is based on the covetousness of those who have not been given. To possess. And they wish to take possession for themselves. So neither did anyone say that any of the things? He possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power.

The apostles gave witness to the resurrection. Of the lord jesus. And great grace. Was upon them all. Now, there's no mention here. Of healings. Or exorcisms. Or resurrections. Or these other. Uh, Sine acts that often accompanied the apostolic ministry. But, In the context of x4. This is still a fulfillment of Praying.

That god would. Stretch out his hand to heal. And that signs and wonders might be done through the name of his. Holy servant. Jesus. So, there's great power in the preaching. There's unanimity of one heart, and one soul. There's the employment of all earthly things. For the service of christ, and especially the good of his church.

And there's great grace. Upon them all. And even verse 34, that which god had told them told israel would not. Be the perpetual case in israel and Deuteronomy and what jesus said. The poor, you will always have with you. Remember the lord jesus said, But for a time for a season acts 434, The life of the next world.

Invades the experience of this one. This is something that happens a lot for christians. Because we have christ. We have heaven already. We have. The the union that we have with him and the fellowship that we have with the holy spirit, so that the scripture says, If anyone is in christ, new creation, Not just that he's been created you.

But that, that which belongs. To the new heavens and the new earth that which belongs. To the everlasting blessedness toward, which all of this is going. It invades time and space in the believer. And so, we actually have that for a moment in verse 34, Nor was there. Anyone among them who left?

For all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them. And brought the proceeds of the things that were sold. And laid them at the apostle's feet. And they distributed to each. As anyone had need. Now, this administration work that the apostles were doing when we get to Chapter 6.

Next lord's day. Uh, lord willing. Uh, it came to be a pretty big logistical. Uh, demand. Uh, there was a lot to oversee as far as this was concerned. But nor was there among them anyone. Uh, no. Is there anyone among them who lacked? For a short season. And this early history of the church of the lord jesus christ.

Uh, they did not have four. Among them. Because they were being provided for in real time. Now, if you zoom in further, as far as Uh, Seasons. Of of history are concerned. And every moment, In which there is a need in the church of the lord jesus christ.

And that need is met. By virtue of the lord's grace, this work. And someone who to whom, he not only gave the things of this world, which many have But whom he gave grace in jesus christ. To be conformed to jesus christ. Which is much more, a much more rare get.

That grace. And because the grace and the provision were in the same person who is united to christ that provision came to this other one. So is united to christ. And every one of those moments there is, isn't there a display that jesus is the king of the world to come?

A display that he came to destroy the works of the devil. And that not only sins days are numbered, but misery's days are also numbered. Because there is a king of righteousness and there is a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells And in which not just sin, but the misery that came into the world by said will be banished forever.

And so there are these moments of dinosaur. The glorify. The lord jesus christ. And the difference that he makes in his people, And the difference that he makes and how we view our possessions and their purpose, The one who gave and the one who received Both. Continue to enjoy that.

Which the lord had entrusted to the one who had originally possessed. This is not anti-possession. This is not anti-material things. It is a recognition that god is the giver. And the enjoyment of what he gives and the employment of what he gives is transformed. When we are conformed, when we are made to be like jesus,

The verse 36. Judges, who has also named Barnabas by the apostles, which is translated son of encouragement to Levite of the country of cyprus. Having land sold it and brought the money. And laid it at the apostle's feet. But a certain man named Ananias and Ananias. With sapphira his wife.

Sold a possession. I think you're all familiar. With the passage through verse. 11 and anayasan sapphira. Wanting to be seen as those. Who had given the entire proceeds? They could have come and said we sold the land for more but here is some that we are willing to part with.

He said the land was yours, you didn't have to sell it. He said when you sold it, the money was yours, you could decide what to do with it. But it was their desire to be seen. As better than they are. It was their desire to do. Good works.

For the praise of men. What you remember all the way back? Uh, to Well, not as far back because i just flipped Remember, back to matthew 6. The middle of the sermon on the mount where, Uh, we've already looked at a fair amount of instruction. For living as those who belong.

To the kingdom that has invaded this world. And the lord Jesus. Gives this instruction. That if it had been heated would have spared Ananias and Sapphira of their life. And even more importantly, their sin. And so for us as we desire for Christ to get glory, In our charitable deeds.

That we would heed the same instruction. Take you that you do not do your charitable deeds before men. To be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your father in heaven. Therefore when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you. As a hypocrite to do in the synagogues and in the streets.

That they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. That your charitable deed may be in secret. And your father who sees in secret. Will himself, reward you openly.

Excuse me. And so we see the worship in which the word of God was proclaimed boldly. In which Christ was worshiped as the God, man and the Christ of Psalm 2. And, The gracious work that God did in his people. Which was expressed in the gritty life.

In what we do with the things of this world that he gives us that we need even just to live. And yet, the way we think about our things and use them, As slaves of servants of Christ. Weaponizing them as it were in the battle between the kingdoms. And that brings, Glory to him, there's still that priority of worship.

But diagonal service is a necessary component. Of how God glorifies his son as redeemer. And this world. And that's what we have an opportunity with whenever there's a need. Thank God. I talked to someone this week who is coming into a season of aggressively increasing need. And, We're discussing these things.

Not from this particular passage. And she said she doesn't mind. Sorry, I give a little bit away there. Doesn't mind as long as the Lord. Jesus gets glory from it. Being the one to whom the neediness was given. If Christ is glorified by what he's done in his people, And the bearing one another's burdens.

As a sign to others. That's what we're doing in the diagonal ministry of the church. Let's pray.

Her father in heaven. We thank you and praise you.

That what was done to Christ. Was exactly as you had planned, and he had purpose. Help each of us lords to. Consider our time. Our jobs. A relations, the different things that we gain. The different ways that You give them to us. Grant to us to view it all as planned.

And purposed by you for your glory. And for Christ's glory. Help us to think of whatever we have. Something in your service. Ready to be weaponized. For showing the goodness of the Lord Jesus Christ. Would you pray? That there would be many of those moments in which What you have done in us to make those?

Who belong to the age to come? Where you give us opportunity to display that Where there is relief from misery, that belongs, really to the world to come. And with that relief, there is a rejoicing over you O Lord To whom belong all things in heaven. An earth. And see.

All that is in them. Now. And forever. To you. Be glory of God. Through Jesus Christ. In his name, we ask him. Amen.