

Acts 4:32-35ⁱⁱ

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 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. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

ⁱⁱ About the First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

In today's passage, Luke summarizes the life of the early Church in Jerusalem. Two descriptions of the believers' common life are given: complete community of goods and distribution to the needy, fulfilling the promise of Deuteronomy 15:4. The sharing of goods practiced by the Jerusalem church does not seem to have been repeated elsewhere.

Although the care of the needy was always a feature of Christian communities, the important issue was not a particular economic principle, but the expression of the community's unity in love. The believers had one source and center of life, and were one in outwardly visible lifestyle.