**April 11, 2021 Acts 4:32-35**

***God’s Great Grace***

1. The church in Jerusalem was the very first ***church***.
   1. What does it mean for us to be the ***church***?
   2. ***Grace***, by definition, is a pure gift, given by God.
2. Church ***unity*** is sign of great grace.
   1. This group came together with “***one*** heart and soul.”
   2. The message of the church was ***polarizing***.
   3. Church unity comforts the ***afflicted*** and ***afflicts*** the comfortable.
3. The Jerusalem church is ***bold***.
   1. The apostles spoke ***boldly***.
   2. Through Jesus resurrection, ***life*** abounds,
   3. What is our ***message***?
   4. A sign of great grace is ***bold*** proclamation.
4. The last sign of grace is the incredible, selfless, foolish ***generosity*** of the Jerusalem church.
   1. Being the church means that we ***give*** in lots of ways.
   2. Great grace doesn’t guarantee financial ***security***.
   3. Giving is a spiritual ***practice*** and sign of ***grace*** that should be second nature for each Christian.
5. The Acts church inspires us to believe in ***resurrection*** of Jesus.
   1. Listen to the ***needs*** of the church, of our brothers and sisters, and of our community.
   2. Where is God compelling you to ***fill*** ***a*** ***role*** in the Kingdom of God.
   3. May we be ***brave*** enough, ***selfless*** enough, and ***loving*** enough to ask God for great grace, whatever the cost.

**Scripture:**

Acts 4:32-35 NRSV (32)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. (33)With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. (34)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. (35)They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.”

II 1“*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.”*

III 1“*With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all*.”

IIIA1“*So they called the and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus*. Acts 4:18”

IIIA2“*If we have to choose between following your orders and God’s orders, to listen to your law or to God’s command, we’re gonna have to go with what we’ve seen and heard from God every time.*”

IIIA3 “*And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness*. *Acts 4:29”*

IV 1“*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.*”