

“Selfishness Versus Selflessness”

Lesson Text: **Acts 4:32--5:5.**

- **Selfishness defined:** “Concerned only to satisfy one’s own desires and prepared to sacrifice the feelings, needs....etc of others in order to do so.”
- **Selflessness defined:** “Concerned for others and not for one’s own advantage, pleasure, comfort....etc.”

I. Selfishness is a Problem!

A. Selfishness is sin! **Galatians 5:19-20.**

- It Is The Root Problem Of All Sin **James 1:14.**
- Adultery, fornication, envy, jealousy, murder (abortion)....
- Selfishness Even Leads To More Sin (gateway sins).
- The Nature Of Selfishness Is Destructive, Manipulative, Uncaring, Self Centered, Arrogant, and Brings Strife (selfish ambitions, **Philippians 1:16**).

B. Selfishness Destroys Our Ability To Serve God:

- **Genesis 3:1-6** Why Adam and Eve lost fellowship with God.
- **Joshua 7:21** Why Achan took some of the spoil of Jericho.
- **1 Kings 21:1-15; 25-26** Ahab & Jezebel killed Naboth for his vineyard.
- **Haggai 1:1-10** Why the house of the Lord was still not rebuilt.
- **Matthew 19:16-22** Why the rich young ruler walked away sorrowing.
- **John 11:48; Mark 15:10** Why the Jewish leaders rejected Jesus.
- **Acts 13:45** Why the Jews contradicted and blasphemed Paul’s teaching.
- **Acts 8:18-24** Why Simon the Sorcerer wanted the power of the HS.
- **Acts 12:20-23** Why King Herod died because of his pride.
- **Acts 19:23-28** Why Demetrius Fought against Paul’s influence.
- **3 John 9-10** Why Diotrephes cast others out of the church.
- **Romans 16:17-18** (Why some will never truly serve Christ).

II. The Virtues Of Selflessness.

A. Un-Selfishness is Proper, Right, and Good! **Philippians 2:1-4.**

- **Acts 4:32-36** Why Early Disciples and Barnabas gave generously.
- Paul was selfless in His Service To Christ **Galatians 2:20**;
- Jewish Christians **Hebrews 10:34.**
- **Ephesians 4:28**, What the thief was taught to do.
- **Philippians 2:19-23** Timothy was Selfless as an evangelist.

B. Selflessness Helps Us To Serve God:

- Jesus the Perfect Example **Philippians 2:5-8.**
- **John 13:3-5**, Jesus was Selfless in Service to Others, **2 Corinthians 5:15.**
- Jesus called men to deny self **Luke 9:23.**
- Jesus taught as the blessed way to be **Acts 20:35.**
- Unselfishness shows true love **John 15:13; 1 Corinthians 13:4-5.**
- The only way sacrifice is possible **2 Corinthians 8:1-5.**