

7 January 1993, Evening Sacrifice Londrina, Brazil

### **Distribution**

This is about how they translated a little word called *fellowship*. Some people think (Christians especially, and maybe some of us) that fellowship is talking to the person next to you in church — saying 'hello, how are you doing today'. But the word in Greek means 'distribution'. Here it says they shared the 'common life'. They were devoted to the apostles teaching, common life, breaking of bread and prayer. Here it says 'common ownership', 'koinonia' — it was an expression of community; common-wealth; common ownership; distribution of wealth; sharing. The money of all was shared because of the need, and they were devoted to that. The word of God would not have been in their hearts if they had not been devoted to the distribution of the wealth. In Acts 4:32 it said no one was poor in their midst because those who had were constantly attending to the distribution to those who had not. That is how the church started out. That is the nature of the church. The nature in the church was divine nature. There is nothing whose nature can be changed without it ceasing to be what it is. Yet the church's nature did change — so therefore it ceased to be the church.

Therefore, if there is to be a true church, there must be a restoration back to the original expression of the church because 1 Jn 3:17 makes clear that this is the nature of the church — that we are to love with the love we have been given and if anyone has need, that we would constantly be giving to fulfill that need. If someone would sell their house or yacht or farm, they would lay the money at the apostles feet — like Miriam poured out a year's wages — lavished it on our Master's feet. When she did that, it was like she was baptized into Him. (Mt 26:13) Wherever the gospel is preached in all the world, you will hear about what she did. In Christianity you never hear that you are supposed to lavish everything on the Body of Messiah. But that is what the first church did. Wherever the gospel is preached, you will hear about her — because this is the gospel. The woman poured it all out. Wherever the gospel is preached in all the world, this story of how she poured everything out will be told. This is the essence of the gospel. If you hold anything back, you break the covenant. As a result of receiving the good news, they were devoted to that — to pouring out everything, and the distribution — the sharing of everything — fellowship. That was in keeping with our Master's commands.

Peter preached to thousands on the day of Pentecost and this fellowship was part of what he told them. "And with many other words...", telling them about our Master's words which he had taught them for three and a half years. Whatever He had commanded them, they passed it on to others (Mt 28:20). If you don't hear that you have not heard the gospel because that is the good news. It is what you have to do to be saved. And wherever the gospel is preached in all the world, this story will be told.

So we have to be careful that whenever we preach the gospel, we talk about this — the giving up of your life, your possessions, pouring out everything you have on our Master. Without that there is no salvation. You cannot stuff the Holy Spirit into someone who has not emptied himself out in this way. The Holy Spirit will not be compatible with a person if he has not done this. Acts 2:38 — But they must repent and be immersed into YAHSHUA and they will receive the Holy Spirit. That woman in Mt 26:13 was baptized into Messiah right then — she was crying, weeping, wiping His feet with her hair. She gave everything — at His feet. She became one with Messiah. And at the graveside, she was the first one to see and touch Him after He was resurrected — this is the second eve — the new woman. The first eve caused the downfall of mankind but this eve is restored. She went to the apostles and said, "I saw Him; He's alive." They didn't believe her. And later He rebuked them for not receiving that woman who had been

liberated. When He left, He sent His spirit to her and that satisfied her and she never lost communion with His Spirit. She just lavished her life on the saints, just wasted her life on the Body. If you have not heard that gospel, you have not heard the gospel yet. It is the proper response. It is the right response. If another gospel is proclaimed, it is a false gospel. We can give our life up for this true One. Many false ones were being proclaimed in that day (and in this), but we give our bodies as a living sacrifice to the true One.

No one can give up their life for anyone less worthy than our Savior and no one can give their life up for anyone more worthy than our Savior. So until He is communicated to the human spirit, a person cannot be saved from his sins and only if the true gospel is preached is it possible for him to surrender his own life and possessions as Lk 14:26-33 says. (Mt 10:37; Mark 8:35; 10:17,28-30).

A person can only be drawn to the Son of God by the Father when they hear this good news — because faith to be saved by, faith to give up our life and possessions, comes to him by the message heard. We are saved by this kind of faith. This is why Rom 10:16,17 speak of a good news to be obeyed. This is the faith that Paul preached. We are saved by faith alone. If faith does not come to a person how can they be saved? Rom 10:14-17 Faith can only come by the real message preached and heard and obeyed. The real and true Savior requires a person to have faith in Him in order to be saved and faith comes by hearing the word of Messiah. Unless Messiah speaks and is heard, the faith to be saved by cannot come to anyone. YAHSHUA was not important enough to the rich young ruler for him to give up his life; faith did not reach him; he didn't think that YAHSHUA was worth all he had. The Savior one receives is only worth what you give. The true One demands life for life.