



APRIL 29/30, 2023

MISSIONS WEEKEND

PENTECOST ECONOMICS

ACTS 2:42-47, NIV



A SERMON BY
REV. EMMETT L. DUNN

 **LOTT CAREY**



Date: April 30, 2023 (Mission Sunday)

Preacher: Rev. Emmett L. Dunn, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, CEO of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention

Sermon Title: Pentecost Economics

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

SERMON SUMMARY

Rev. Emmett Dunn invites our congregation into a new economic paradigm. Drawing from the tenets of **Pentecost Economics** (found in Acts 2), our preacher encourages the body of Christ to adopt an alternative way of managing the production, distribution, and consumption of the world's goods. As an alternative practice, Pentecost Economics stands on the foundational principle of community. We who follow Christ are part of a community. ***As a community, we are called to live out three principles that support and prosper the whole: shared values, shared sacrifices, and shared benefits.***

Rev. Dunn ends his sermon by challenging us to live out these principles by becoming the community **and** doing the work that God desires.

KEY POINTS

1. In Luke's historical analysis of the church (the Acts of the Apostles), he describes what it means to live as followers of Christ in community. Community is a foundational element of Luke's writing.
2. The story of Pentecost ushers in a new economic paradigm where the concerns of the many outweigh those of the few. This new system is based on shared values, sacrifices, and benefits.
3. Without equal access to opportunities, only the rich and well-connected benefit, and the disenfranchised are continuously left out.
4. Shared benefits include genuine fellowship, vibrant worship, and church expansion.

Village Members and Facilitators,
The Curriculum Team does not expect you to cover all the questions.
We ask facilitators to choose the best questions for your Village from each section.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU QUESTIONS

1. Lott Carey (an African-American Baptist minister, lay physician, and missionary) helped to establish the West African colony of Liberia in the 1820s. Rev. Carey's ministry was to spread the Gospel in foreign lands. Who are Christians in your life who venture into "new territories" to share God's word? *Remember, you can be a missionary in your own backyard.*

2. If you were to describe the mission of the church, what would it be?

INTO THE BIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Rev. Dunn suggests one way to spell love is **g-i-v-e**. Giving is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit listed in Romans 12:8. What other scriptures encourage us to give of our time, talent, and treasure?

2. Luke's primary focus in the Acts of the Apostles is on the role of the Church as a community. What other scriptures emphasize community as a core principle of the Church?

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Rev. Dunn asserts that while we are saved **from** sin, we are saved **for** community. What do you think it means to be saved for community? How does your salvation impact the way you live in your community?

2. The principles of Pentecost Economics require participants to engage in shared values. What values do you hold most important in your life? Do you believe you share those values with a significant percentage of your church family?

3. In this week's sermon, we learn that sacrifice is a hallmark of Christian living. What role has sacrificial living played in your life *beyond* loved ones? What encourages or hinders sacrificial living?

4. Often, we define diversity as racial, gender identity, age, etc. However, Rev. Dunn posits that diversity should also include multiple ideas and opinions. What happens when gatherings such as the church share various ideas and opinions? How has Village exposed you to different viewpoints?

CAN I PUSH IT QUESTIONS

1. By illustrating the economic disparities between black and white Americans, Rev. Dunn asks how the body of Christ can find an "alternative to worshiping at the altar of capitalism" and shift these imbalances. What do you believe the church can *and* should do about these economic disparities?

2. One of the tenets of shared sacrifice is having an inclusive community to ensure that all members benefit. How is your church inclusive? What can be done to make your church more inclusive?

ACTIVITY

Rev. Dunn uses the term “missional” throughout the sermon. Missional is defined as the *adoption of a missionary’s posture, thinking, behaviors, and practices to engage others with the Gospel message*. To be a missionary is to be sent. God sends the Church into the world to share the Gospel. While most of us will never share God’s word internationally, we can still do missional work. How can we engage in missional activities other than supporting missionaries?

SPIRIT WORK

Ubuntu (Zulu pronunciation: [ùbúnt’ù]) is a Bantu term meaning “humanity to others.” Rev. Dunn translates Ubuntu as “I am because you are.” Who has helped you become who you are today? How did they help you? Write this person a thank you note for their impact. If the person is no longer alive, write a prayer and offer it in your devotional time.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Within the structure of Village, there are various affinity groups. Each week the team creates questions specifically for these individual groups. However, any village may draw from the questions listed below if the Spirit so moves.

For Married Couples

1. Economics is a significant facet of most marriages. How might the principles of Pentecost Economics (shared values, shared sacrifice, and shared benefits) bless your marriage?
2. How can you tell if you share the principles of Pentecost Economics with other married couples in your communities, etc., with whom you worship or work?

For Young Adults

1. Rev. Dunn suggests there are at least two ways to expand the Church. One is by preaching God's word. Another way is setting a good example by living out God's word. How did you come to be a part of the Church?
2. If we were to watch video footage of your last 48 hours of community living, how much footage would be described as practicing Pentecost Economics?

For Parents

1. Think about when you were growing up. What shared values from your elders do you wish to retain? What are some values or habits you wish to leave behind?

2. We know that values are “caught” and not “taught.” Our children learn more from what they see us do than what we teach them. What values do you hope your children “catch” from you?

For Seniors

1. Our sermon focuses on the importance of community. However, for many, gone are the days when we could borrow a cup of sugar from our neighbor. Can you identify a reason that caused the commandment “love thy neighbor” to drift away in our community? As seasoned saints, how can we connect with our community in this new age of solitude?
2. How can you tell if you share values with the religious organizations, communities, etc., with whom you worship or work?

For Women

1. Rev. Dunn shared the story of his mother’s ***sou-sou***. A sou-sou is a communal savings club where each member is scheduled to receive monies contributed by all members. As women, what is our responsibility to one another to uphold the value of collective community? How can we make a difference in each other’s lives?
2. Rev. Dunn suggested that diversity was not merely presence but also having a voice. As women, we are often present but not included in community conversations. How can we make our voices heard without diminishing the needs of the total community?

For Men

1. According to the principles of Pentecost Economics, shared sacrifice is more than just financial participation. How have you ***non-financially*** participated in Pentecost Economics within your church or organizations?

2. As men, we have been trained not to ask for assistance, “pull ourselves up by our bootstraps,” and ensure our family has provisions. Have you ever been in a position where Pentecost Economics did ***or*** did not help you provide for your family? How did those instances affect your perception of your church community?

For Returning Citizens

1. This weekend’s sermon suggests that Pentecost Economics are based on shared values, sacrifices, and benefits. As a returning citizen, what are your shared values, sacrifices, and benefits? How do these principles benefit you as a returning citizen?

2. Rev. Dunn reminds us that our actions, as the body of Christ, can either push people away or draw them closer to the Lord. Think of the Christians whose actions drew you toward Jesus. What actions attracted you? Now, think of the Christians whose actions pushed you away. What were their actions? How can you be more like the former (and less like the latter)?

For Differently-Abled Persons/People

1. Rev. Dunn reminds us that without equal access to opportunities, many are excluded. Has your different ability caused you to feel left out? If so, how did you address that feeling?

2. The sermon invites us to see an alternative economic system that includes and serves all. As a differently-abled person, how can your church and community help ensure that this economic system supports you?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. Click [here](#) to learn about Rev. Lott Carey and The Lott Carey Global Christian Missional Community.
2. At the beginning of Rev. Dunn's sermon, he mentioned *Silencing White Noise: Six Practices to Overcome Our Inaction on Race* by Rev. Willie Francois.
3. Essence Magazine contributor Lihle Z. Mtshali describes sou-sou in "[Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Those Sou-Sou Savings Clubs African and Caribbean Women Love.](#)"