

Acts Series

Lesson #46

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Dean Bible Ministries

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The Acts of the Apostles “To the end of the earth” Acts 1:8

“Responsibility, Labor, Property” Acts 4:32–5:16





The Texas Department of Employment, Division of Labor Standards claimed a small rancher was not paying proper wages to his help and sent an agent out to investigate him.



GOV'T AGENT: "I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them."



RANCHER:

“Well, there’s my hired hand who’s been with me for 3 years. I pay him \$200 a week plus free room and board. Then there’s the mentally challenged guy. He works about 18 hours every day and does about 90% of all the work around here. He makes about \$10 per week, pays his own room and board, and I buy him a bottle of bourbon every Saturday night so he can cope with life. He also sleeps with my wife occasionally.”



GOV'T AGENT:

“That’s the guy I want to talk to – the mentally challenged one.”



RANCHER:

“That would be me.”

1 Tim. 6:10, “For the love of money [φιλαργυρία *philarguria*] is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

2 Tim. 3:2, “For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,”

Acts 4:32, “Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.”

2 Thessalonians 3:10, “For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”

From Thomas Sowell, *Basic Economics*

“Economics is the study of the use of scarce resources which have alternative uses.”

~Quote from Lionel Robbins, British economist

From Thomas Sowell, *Basic Economics*

“Economics is not about the financial fate of individuals, it is about the material well being of society as a whole. It shows cause and effect relationships involving prices [value], industry and commerce, work and pay [responsible labor], or the international balance of trade [property]—all from the standpoint of how this affects the allocation of scarce resources in a way that raises or lowers the material standard of living of the population as a whole.”

Capitalism – a variety of definitions

the economic system where the means of production are privately owned, operated for profit from investment, and in competitive markets.

Communism is a social, political and economic movement that aims at the establishment of a classless and stateless communist society structured upon common ownership of the means of production., i.e., property.

Socialism – an economic system in which the means of production are commonly owned and controlled cooperatively;

Modern socialism originated from an 18th-century intellectual and working class political movement that criticized the effects of industrialization and private property on society.

Democratic Socialists believe that both the economy and society should be run democratically—to meet public needs, not to make profits for a few. To achieve a more just society, many structures of our government and economy must be radically transformed through greater economic and social democracy so that ordinary Americans can participate in the many decisions that affect our lives.

Democracy and socialism have nothing in common but one word, equality. But notice the difference: while democracy seeks equality in liberty, socialism seeks equality in restraint and servitude.

~Alexis de Tocqueville