

Acts Series

Lesson #53

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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

“Investment, Wages, the Role of Religion” Acts 4:32–5:16



Economic Parameters



1 Sam. 8:10–20

Warning: The trajectory of government is to increase taxation and reduce freedom.

Matt 25:14ff

Investment and Personal Accountability

Matt. 20:1–16

The Rights of Employers to Determine Wages

“The food crisis is only the visible tip of the iceberg. More fundamental problems lurk just below the surface. Most serious is the unjust division of the earth’s food and resources. Thirty percent of the world’s population lives in the developed countries. But this minority of less than one-third eats three-quarters of the world’s protein each year. Less than 6 percent of the world’s population lives in the United States, but we regularly demand about 33 percent of most minerals and energy consumed every year. Americans use 191 times as much energy per person as the average Nigerian. Air conditioners alone in the United States use as much energy each year as does the entire country of China annually with its 830 million people. One-third of the world’s people have an annual per capita income of \$100 or less. In the United States it is now about \$5,600 per person. And this difference increases every year.”

~Ron Sider, *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*

- **Lack of interest in material advance, combined with resignation in the face of poverty;**
- **Lack of initiative, self-reliance and a sense of personal responsibility for the economic future of one's self and one's family;**
- **High leisure preference, together with a lassitude found in tropical climates;**
- **Relatively high prestige of passive or contemplative life compared to active life;**
- **The prestige of mysticism and of renunciation of the world compared to acquisition and achievement;**

- **Acceptance of the idea of a preordained, unchanging and unchangeable universe;**
- **Emphasis on performance of duties and acceptance of obligation, rather than on achievement of results, or assertion or even a recognition of personal rights;**
- **Lack of sustained curiosity, experimentation and interest in change;**
- **Belief in the efficacy of supernatural and occult forces and of their influence over one's destiny;**

- **Insistence on the unity of the organic universe, and on the need to live with nature rather than conquer it or harness it to man's needs, an attitude of which reluctance to take animal life is a corollary;**
- **Belief in perpetual reincarnation, which reduces the significance of effort in the course of the present life;**
- **Recognized status of beggary, together with a lack of stigma in the acceptance of charity;**
- **Opposition to women's work outside the home.**