

## Whose Stuff Is It?

Have you ever taken stock of all the stuff you have? For instance ladies, how many pairs of shoes do you have? Men, how many different kinds of sporting goods do you own? If we did an inventory on all the music, books, games, clothes and stuff we had my guess is that it would be a lot. We Americans have so much stuff that a whole industry has been created to help us store our stuff. **The self-storage industry rakes in over \$22 billion dollars a year providing additional space for our stuff!** Have you ever asked the question about your stuff as to whose stuff it is?

Acts 4:32 records that, **“All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.”** Well if the first church did not view what they owned as their own whose was it? First and foremost they recognized that everything they owned was given to them by God. So, technically it was God’s stuff and they were just taking care of it for Him. In fact Psalms 24:1 says, **“The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.”** That includes all your stuff.

So as we prepare for our morning offering I want us to consider whose stuff our stuff is in our eyes. If the stuff you possess is yours in your eyes then you probably are not excited that it is offering time. If the stuff that you possess is God’s in your eyes then it is a lot easier to give a portion of it back.

What is interesting about the rest of the passage in Acts that I read is that the early church members regularly sold and gave away their stuff. Acts 4:34, 35 says, **“There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them<sup>35</sup> and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.”** When you think that you are simply a steward of what God has given you it is easy to be that generous. If you see the stuff you possess as yours it will be hard to part with any of it. I would argue that **when you adapt that view, that your possessions are your possessions, you are possessed by your possessions.**

This morning as the ushers come forward we have another opportunity to give back to God a portion of what He has given us. **Giving generously is one way to prove whose stuff your stuff really is.**