

## An Everyday Guide



### The power of faith transforms even death. For we are an Easter people.

What then does it look like to be an Easter people? How are we to live? If we start at the very beginning and search the Acts accounts of the Easter season Scriptures, we learn how that very first community of Jesus' followers began to shape their priorities and create a way of life.

From the record of those early days, a modus operandi begins to emerge. Within the early

community, "there was no needy person among them" (Acts 4:34). Those who had more property and wealth liquidated their assets and gave the money to the apostles to distribute to those in need. This may be startling information to our 21st century selves, but nonetheless true.

As the community developed attitudes, rules and a self-image, the Spirit was at work among them. At first, the Jesus followers shunned the newly converted Paul. They feared that he had not changed and would turn on them. But they came to believe, with the help of their own Barnabas, that radical change is the sure sign of the work of the Spirit of Jesus (Acts 9:27).

Those early folks also had presumptions about whom God favoured and loved the best. In time, they understood that God truly shows no partiality among humankind (Acts 10:34). All are equal in the sight of God. Finally, there was a clear message on that Ascension day that Easter people do not dawdle looking up at the sky but must live as active witnesses to faith wherever they are (Acts 1:11).

In response to these guidelines, we might say that times are very different now. We might add that the smaller size of the nascent community made sharing one's wealth a manageable practice, but not in our age. We might want to maintain our own exclusive practices, loving those who look and think as we do, judging those who do not. We might want to ignore the faith's invitation to radical change that invites reexamination of our own priorities, our words and actions, and even our use of time. We might want to say those things and more, but the truth of Scripture is ever ours, speaking anew to us each day, calling us to be truly an Easter people.

Source: <https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/spiritual-reflections/we-are-easter-people>

#### REFLECTION

- > Who are the Easter people in your communities?
- > In today's world who do you see as willing to challenge the unequal distribution of resources and wealth?