

JESUS AT THE CORE

LOVING THEIR NEW LIFE

JOY FILLED COMMUNITIES

EVERY OPPORTUNITY

SUMMER
2023

SUNDAYS
9am & 10:30am
9am LIVE

UNSTOPPABLE

WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE CHURCH IN ACTS.

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appealing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but

to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." The Ascension 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee,

MAP OF THE WORLD



A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

ACTS 4:32-5:11

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WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE CHURCH IN ACTS.

This Week

God used an extraordinary, terrifying event to expose the threat of hypocrisy in the Early Church – for their good and for ours!

Acts 4:32-5:11

³² Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³ And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Acts 4:32-5:11

³⁶ Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, ³⁷ sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Chapter 5

¹ But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, ² and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 4:32-5:11

³ But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? ⁴ While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.” ⁵ When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. ⁶ The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him. ⁷ After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

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Acts 4:32-5:11

⁸ And Peter said to her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much.” And she said, “Yes, for so much.” ⁹ But Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.” ¹⁰ Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹ And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

The Allure of Hypocrisy

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Acts 4:32-5:11

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The Influence of Barnabas

- Joseph, called Barnabas (Son of Encouragement)
- Name given him by the Apostles
- Acts 11:24 – “A good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.”
- Sells a field and brings the proceeds to the Apostles

Acts 4:32-5:11

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Chapter 5

¹ **But a man named Ananias**, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, ² and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Hypocrisy

- What is Hypocrisy?

Matthew 23:23-28

²⁵ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For **you clean the outside** of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶ You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. ²⁷ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For **you are like whitewashed tombs**, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ So you also outwardly **appear righteous** to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

What is Hypocrisy?

Hypocrisy – an outward appearance of holiness, goodness, or kindness, without the inward reality.

Hypocrisy

- What is Hypocrisy?
- **Why do we do it? Why is it so appealing?**

Why Is Hypocrisy Appealing?

- We all want people to think well of us
 - We get the accolades without the sacrifice
- We want to be like those people we admire
 - The behaviors are easier to generate than actual holiness

Hypocrisy

- What is Hypocrisy?
- Why do we do it? Why is it so appealing?
- **What are the symptoms?**

The Symptoms

- In the middle of the good things we do...

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The Symptoms

- In the middle of the good things we do...
 - Half-hearted

The Symptoms

- In the middle of the good things we do...
 - Half-hearted
 - I'm supposed to, ought to, should...

The Symptoms

- In the middle of the good things we do...
 - Half-hearted
 - I'm supposed to, ought to, should...
 - It feels heavy, burdensome

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- In the middle of the good things we do...
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 - Long for the satisfaction that comes with being noticed

The Symptoms

- In the middle of the good things we do...
 - Half-hearted
 - I'm supposed to, ought to, should...
 - It feels heavy, burdensome
 - Long for the satisfaction that comes with being noticed
 - Fear being found out

The Price of Hypocrisy

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Acts 4:32-5:11

³ But Peter said, “Ananias, why has **Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit** and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? ⁴ While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? **You have not lied to man but to God.**” ⁵ When Ananias heard these words, **he fell down and breathed his last.** And great fear came upon all who heard of it. ⁶ The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him. ⁷ After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

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The Price

- “Satan filled his heart”
 - The opposite of Pentecost – filled with the Holy Spirit
 - Still held responsible – “Why have you contrived this deed...”

The Price

- “Satan filled his heart”
 - The opposite of Pentecost – filled with the Holy Spirit
 - Still held responsible – “Why have you contrived this deed...”
- “Lied to Holy Spirit” = “Lied to God”
 - This was an offering to God
 - Peter does not say – You’ve lied to me = Lied to God
 - If you really believe you can fool God...

The Price

- “Test the Spirit of the Lord”
 - God won’t care, He doesn’t mind
 - Utility over Integrity
 - “Good things are happening”

The Price

- “Test the Spirit of the Lord”
 - God won’t care, He doesn’t mind
 - Utility over Integrity
 - “Good things are happening”
- “Breathed their last”
 - The judgment of God to instruct and to protect the Church

Why Don't We Fall Down Dead?

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Why Don't We Die?

- Unique moment in salvation history

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Why Don't We Die?

- Unique moment in salvation history
- The appearance of holiness without a new heart = death
 - Leads to – eternal death

2 Peter 3:9

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promises as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

The Antidote for Hypocrisy

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The Antidote

Be Honest with God

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The Antidote

- He is the God -
 - Who sees our hearts (1 Sam. 16:7)
 - Who knows our thoughts/words before we do (Ps. 139:2-4)
 - Who knows our motivations - loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:7)

The Antidote

- Be Honest with God
- Cultivate a healthy fear of God

Acts 4:32-5:11

You have not lied to man but to God.”⁵ When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. **And great fear came upon all who heard of it.**⁶ The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.⁷ After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

Acts 4:32-5:11

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Healthy “Fear” of God

- Is NOT...

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- Is NOT...
 - Fear that our God is capricious

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 - **Fear that God will forsake those who love Him**

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 - **Fear that God will find out our true brokenness**

Healthy “Fear” of God

- Is NOT...
 - Fear that our God is capricious
 - Fear that God will forsake those who love Him
 - Fear that God will find out our true brokenness
 - **Fear that God will lose His patience with us**

Healthy “Fear” of God

- Is NOT...
 - Fear that our God is capricious
 - Fear that God will forsake those who love Him
 - Fear that God will find out our true brokenness
 - Fear that God will lose His patience with us
 - **Fear that God is just waiting to zap us**

Healthy “Fear” of God

- Is...

Healthy “Fear” of God

- Is...
 - **Awe**

Healthy “Fear” of God

- Is...
 - Awe
 - **Reverence**

Healthy “Fear” of God

- Is...
 - Awe
 - Reverence
 - **Honest appreciation and confession of what we deserve**

Healthy “Fear” of God

- Is...
 - Awe
 - Reverence
 - Honest appreciation and confession of what we deserve
 - **Honest awareness of our ongoing temptation and sin**

Healthy “Fear” of God

- Is...
 - Awe
 - Reverence
 - Honest appreciation and confession of what we deserve
 - Honest awareness of our ongoing temptation and sin
 - **Fear of offending so great a kindness**

Healthy “Fear” of God

- Is...
 - Awe
 - Reverence
 - Honest appreciation and confession of what we deserve
 - Honest awareness of our ongoing temptation and sin
 - Fear of offending so great a kindness
 - **Fear of the just consequences of our Heavenly Father**

The Antidote

- Be Honest
 - About ourselves
 - Sinners offered a salvation by God's grace
 - About God
 - He is Complex, Loving, All-Knowing, Faithful and Just
 - About Salvation
 - It is in Jesus Christ alone
 - It is by genuine trust in His saving work
 - And real dependence on His faithfulness

Takeaways – This Week

- Ask for God's help

Takeaways – This Week

- Ask for God’s help – Psalm 139:23-24

“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting!”

Takeaways – This Week

- Ask for God's help – Psalm 139:23-24
- (As best we can) Do everything wholeheartedly

Takeaways – This Week

- Ask for God's help – Psalm 139:23-24
- (As best we can) Do everything wholeheartedly
- Trust that He knows ALL your brokenness – loves you still!