

life group study guide

February 28, 2016

GRASPING GENEROUSLY (Acts 4:32-5:11)

Read verse 32 of chapter 4 carefully. What attitude did the Christians possess as described in that verse? What should we learn from that?

What work, commanded by Jesus, were the apostles doing in verse 33?

How were needy people provided for in the early church? Where else have we read of a similar activity? What can we learn from this about how the church gets its income?

Who was in charge of the distribution, and on what basis was the distribution made? Who received funds from this collection: Christians, non-Christians or both?

What man in particular made a generous contribution? What name did the apostles give him, and what did the name mean? Can you list a few other activities this man was later involved in? You may need to use cross-references.

Read Acts 5: 1-11. What man and wife also made a contribution, but what error did they commit? What can we learn from this about what influences people to sin?

What lessons can we learn from this story about possessions and giving to the church? (Note verse 4.) What distinction is made between individual possessions and church/group possessions?

What happened to the man who committed the sin? What do you find in verses 3 and 4 that would indicate that the Holy Spirit possesses deity?

What lessons can we learn from this story about lying?

When did Sapphira come, and what did she say about the property they sold?

What did Peter say they had done wrong?

What happened to her as a result?

What effect did this have on the church and other people?

List three other passages in Scripture about lying and deceit.

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List three other passages about discipline or chastisement of erring church members (withdrawal, etc.). In what ways does this example in Acts differ from other Bible passages about church discipline?

What lessons can we learn about church discipline?

Thoughts from Pastor Matt:

If we want to have bold generosity, then it has to be more about serving others than our act of giving.

- Bold generosity doesn't hold anything back. We cannot be both generous and grasping at the same time. (Acts 5: 1-11)
- Our generosity is a litmus test to the condition of your heart towards God. (Acts 5:4)
- Don't let generosity simply stay a desire; be bold enough to complete the desire and give your money, your time and your SELF. (2 Corinthians 8:11)
- By giving your dollars and your time, you are giving life to someone in the community and around the world.