



Sermon Discussion Guide

02.26.23 Message | Tyler Myers | Acts 4:32-5:11

Key Scriptures:

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. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 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 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 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. 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? 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." When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him. After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." 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." 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. And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

- Acts 4:32-5:11

Message Highlights:

- The church is designed to be God in the flesh as we walk with Jesus and the Spirit!
- As the church, we should aim to welcome the sinner but not affirm sin.
- A piece of us dies individually and collectively when sin compels us to live outside a right relationship with God, ourselves and others.



- Acts is not an old story; it is the ongoing story of Jesus and the Spirit that we should continue to say YES to with our lives.

Conversation Starter:

Can you think of a time, perhaps as a child, that you told a white lie and it ended up having ripple effects that you weren't anticipating? How did it feel to be caught in a lie?

Discuss the Message:

1. In Acts 4:32, what does the text mean when it says 'but they had everything in common'?
 - a. What can you identify as an obstacle to healthy relational intimacy within the church today? What steps can you take as a member of the body of Christ to counteract this obstacle, whether that means getting connected with a group, serving our community or something else?
 - b. How does the principle 'love the sinner, hate the sin' influence your understanding of love and unity within the church?
2. As a group, process your initial thoughts and feelings surrounding the story of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts chapter five.
 - a. How did Ananias and Sapphira's actions oppose God's vision for the church, which the Spirit empowered them to live in?
 - b. When we fall short, how does God's grace enable us to return to right standing with him, ourselves and others?
3. Acts 2:42-47 illustrates a beautiful picture of the church of which we get to be a part. Praise God! Are there aspects of this vision for the church you don't currently practice that you'd like to? Which ones?
 - a. What does it look like for you to welcome somebody that doesn't know Jesus yet into this vision for the church?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your Word and all it has to teach us in Acts chapters four and five. Help us to be a church that is all in for your son Jesus and his people. May this week's message be a reminder to us to cling to you when we are at both our best and our worst. We praise you for salvation through your Son's death on the cross and his resurrection. You saved us when we couldn't save ourselves. You are a good, compassionate God. Amen.