

Speak the Truth in Love & Trust God with the Results! Acts 4:32-5:1-14

- If you were searching for a church, what are the things you'd look for?
- What makes a church a good church, one that is worth joining?
- Where does "boldly proclaims the Word of God in love" fall on your list?

"All Scripture is breathed out by God & profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Do we believe this? When was the last time you read Scripture for reproof and/or correction in your life?

When was the last time you used Scripture to reprove or correct a brother or sister in Christ in love?

There are parts of Scripture that are just hard to read, and hard to accept!

Acts 5:1-12 is one of those passages, yet it is still **"God-breathed..."**

What can we learn from this passage about God, the early Church, the work of Satan, and about how we are called to live as the Church today?

What can we learn about God?

- God is not afraid of bad press!
- God takes sin very seriously!
- God is incredibly gracious!
- God cares about the purity of His Church!

What can we learn about the early church?

- They weren't communists/socialists, they lived out great generosity!
- They were willing to call out sinners in their sin!
- They did not try to explain or justify God's actions!
- They lived with a healthy fear of God from this point on!

What can we learn about the work of Satan?

- Satan is the father of lies!
- Even Christians are susceptible to Satan's attacks!
- Satan orchestrates death!
- Satan can wreak havoc within and among God's people!

What can we learn about how we are called to live as the Church today?

- If God takes sin this seriously, so should we!
- God is incredibly gracious, but we should not presume upon His grace!
- We should be mindful that sometimes the worst enemy of the gospel is the enemy within!
- How we live has an effect on the growth/decline of the Church!

It is God's grace & mercy that keeps us from suffering the same fate as Ananias & Sapphira!

But some will still ask, "why them", and "why then"?

- There are theories for "why them?"
- There are theories about "why then?"

But at the end of the day, all we can know for sure is what God's Word makes clear, and then we must seek to live in response to it!

Application questions:

- What would it look like for us to take sin seriously in our church today?
- *What would it look like for us to live in response to God's amazing grace?*
- What would it look like for us to live out God's command to "Be Holy for I am Holy!"?
- *What would it look like for us to live with a healthy "fear of the Lord?"*

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