

The Gospel Project

Unit 29: Session 1 Living Generously

Memory Verse: Romans 10:9-10

If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation.”

Opening Thoughts:

We are skipping ahead to Unit 29 so we can stay focused on the story of the spread of the Gospel and the beginnings of the early church out of the book of Acts during these online weeks in January. The book also skips ahead to the end of Acts 4. The story we are missing in Acts 4 is the Jewish leaders’ response to the healing of the lame man we studied last week. Peter and John are arrested. Satan used the Jewish leaders to attack the church. The Pharisees threaten Peter and John and then release them. When Peter and John return and report to their church the church prays for boldness. That makes the timing of this today’s story interesting. You see in Acts 5, Ananias and Sapphira, who are church members fall to temptation. In other words, Satan is attacking the church from within. God responds in a big way to protect His church. And in the midst of this there is also a lesson on generosity. Let’s take a look.

Point 1: God’s People are to Live Generously

Read Acts 4:32-35, and answer the following questions.

1. How is the church described in verse 32?
2. How does this description compare with to Luke’s description in Acts 2:42-47?
3. What were the apostles doing with great power (see Romans 1:16 if you need help)?
4. What was the result of the apostles’ testimony?
5. How was God’s grace evident in their lives?
6. Have you experienced the grace of God?
7. How is the God’s grace evident in your life?

Point 2: God’s People are to Live Honestly

Read Acts 4:36-5:2, and answer the following questions.

1. How is Joseph described in verses 36-37?
2. How are Ananias and Sapphira described in verses 1-2?
3. What are the similarities and differences in the actions of these 3 people?
4. Do you think any of these people committed sin? If so, what was the sin?

Point 3: God's People are to Live Reverently

Read Acts 5:3-11, and answer the following questions.

1. How does Peter deal with Ananias and Sapphira?
2. How does God deal with Ananias and Sapphira?
3. God has dealt with sin in this manner before. Look up Leviticus 10:1-2 and Joshua 7 to see two more times this type of consequence happens. Write down what you learn. Do you see a pattern?
4. How does Peter explain Ananias' sin in verse 3?
5. How does Peter explain Sapphira's sin in verse 9?
6. What does the Bible say about testing God? Look up Exodus 17:1-4, Deuteronomy 6:16, Matthew 4:7, and Luke 4:12 and write down what you learn.
7. How do these events impact the church according to verse 11?
8. What happens when a church condones or excuses sin instead of confronting it?

Concluding thoughts:

Put simply, live generously with your time, your talents, and your treasures, but always check your motivation. We need to follow the example of Barnabas and learn from the mistakes of Ananias and Sapphira. As believers we live empowered by the Holy Spirit. We also remember all of the grace God lavishly poured out on us through the sacrifice of His Son for our salvation. Out of an overflow of that grace, we lavishly pour into the lives of others to bless them and live in a way that brings honor and glory to God. Serve the Lord with gladness, not out of compulsion. God is a good God and He deserves no less.