

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 1ST, 2026 // BOOK OF ACTS

## GENEROUS (ACTS 4:32-37) ONE HEART AND MIND

The entire group of Believers (over 5,000 at this point) were of one heart and mind.

- This isn't just a community of friends; there is a unity of purpose.
- They believed and were filled with the Holy Spirit. They stood in the face of opposition and spoke the truth with boldness.
- **When God changes our hearts, He changes our purpose.**

## NOT MY OWN

They were a close community, but they still worked, lived, and interacted with the larger community around them.

- What changed was the way they viewed their possessions. Possessions became resources, not things to covet.
- **When we realize that everything we have is FROM God, we soon learn that what we have is also FOR Him.**

## THE INSPIRATION

Luke pauses the generosity message and shares that the apostles were giving great testimony to the resurrection of Jesus and that great grace was on all of them.

- They weren't preaching about money or sharing possessions.
- **The gospel message about God's grace in Christ will inspire a culture of self-giving in love.**

## SELL EVERYTHING?

Needs were met because people gave out of their abundance.

- Luke doesn't say that they sold all they had, just that all who had sold some of what they had, so that all could serve without need.
- **Giving isn't "required." It's voluntary and should be motivated by love. Do we have a spirit of generosity?**

## THE EXAMPLE

Luke shares how Barnabas gave.

- He was well-known, but it seems he gave without a desire to be recognized. As a man of resources, it was noble of him to give, but he did it to encourage others.
- **Clearly, some can give more than others. It isn't about equal gifts or equal recognition; it is about right motive.**

## DECEPTION (ACTS 5:1-11) HOWEVER

Luke introduces Ananias and Sapphira, who are part of the new community of Believers.

- After seeing others' generosity, they decide to sell a piece of property and give to those in need. However...
- They kept some of the proceeds for themselves but tried to give the impression that they were giving the whole amount.

## HOW BIG WAS THEIR SIN?

Peter confronted Ananias with some revealing questions.

- The land was theirs, and they didn't have to give it. They could have given any part of the proceeds because it was still their money to use how they desired.
- They chose profit and, at the same time, tried to inflate their reputation by saying they gave everything—a clear lie.

## LYING TO GOD

The origin of their deceit was from Satan. They allowed a spirit of deceit and hypocrisy to fill their minds, then made a plan to satisfy their wants while appearing to supply others' needs.

- The lie is compounded as they sought recognition. They didn't really give a gift; they were buying fame.
- **God can see every motive.**

## DEATH AND FEAR

This serious act of deceit against God brought instant judgment from God as Ananias dropped dead.

- The response of fear among the people was a sense of awe and reverence for God, rather than terror or panic.
- **God's judgment means that He will protect the identity, character, and holiness of His Church.**

## A SECOND CHANCE

Three hours later, Sapphira has the opportunity to tell the truth and repent of the deceit and hypocrisy that had filled her heart earlier.

- We realize that their deception of the community was actually a challenge to the Holy Spirit. They provoked God to judgment.
- **What are we lying about? Why do we want to lie about anything when the truth is a place for grace?**

## TAKING GOD SERIOUSLY

The story of Ananias and Sapphira spread quickly throughout the whole church and all around the land.

- Everyone believed that God could hear their profession and see their practice.
- **How are we doing? Do we believe what we say in public? Are we sincere or just living the routine? It may be time to tell the truth, change, and become who we ought to be.**

## WONDERS (ACTS 5:12-16)

### AMAZING RESULTS

As God performed many signs and wonders through the apostles, those who still rejected the Messiah developed a respect for Believers.

- Believers were added to the Church in increasing numbers.
- **Some will reject the truth, others will resist but still ponder it in their hearts, and some will embrace Him and believe. Are we being faithful to share the truth? Do we see addition?**

## SUPERNATURAL ACTIVITY

Luke gives examples of the activity that surrounded the apostles' ministry.

- People from towns around Jerusalem brought the sick and demon-possessed, laying them down in the streets in hope that even Peter's shadow would touch them.
- **This is still about people hearing what God can do. The multitudes knew because people talked—in person. Do we recognize that His divine power to save is the message we should be sharing?**

## MESSAGE

- Everyone has a message.
- **It is usually the most recent excitement, insult, or experience.**
- **As Believers, our common message should be who Jesus is, what He has done, and how He has changed our lives. It's not small talk. It's the most important talk we will ever have, and it involves action.**

## UNITY

- People confuse unity and uniformity.
- **There is a wrong perception that the Church is where everyone gives up everything to look, do, and be the same.**
- **Authentic unity is a diverse community working together for God's divine purpose, despite our different personalities and backgrounds. Any other attempt at unity is exhausting. Are we focused on His message?**

## RADICAL

- Authentic is radical.
- **Today's culture defines Christians as selfish, hypocritical judges of society. Sadly, there is plenty of evidence to affirm that perception.**
- **Authentic followers will be unified in their message of Jesus and generous with their resources. We won't have to advertise it because our motive will be to glorify God, and He will be seen! Are we actively putting God first? What will it cost us if we do? What if we don't?**