

UNSTOPPABLE: Daring to Be the Church On Mission

Lesson Ten • Acts 4:32 - 5:11

Fresh Graves in the Churchyard

Pretenders Beware

The sin of PRETENDING is very dangerous and even deadly, therefore we desperately need great grace and great fear upon our church.

Great Grace and Great Fear

1. We Need Great Grace to Practice AUTHENTICITY in the Church!

The Effects of Believing the Gospel:

The heart is FIRM in our love for people and FREE from the love of things.

Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.
Acts 4:32-35

Generosity in Action:

BARNABAS is an example of authentic generosity in the church.

And Joseph, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. Acts 4:36-37

Does This Mean I Have to Sell My House?

The practice of selling one's possessions and giving the proceeds to the church to distribute to people in need was VOLUNTARY and motivated by love.

"While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control?" Acts 5:4

2. We Need Great Fear to Guard Against HYPOCRISY in the Church!

We're All Prone to the Sin of Hypocrisy!

Hypocrisy is deliberate DECEPTION, trying to make people think we are more spiritual than we really are.

"Half of the misery in the world comes from trying to look, instead of trying to be, what one is not." ~ George MacDonald

Hypocrisy in Action:

ANANIAS and SAPPHIRA are examples of hypocrisy in the church.

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.
Acts 5:1-6

Lessons from the Fresh Graves in the Churchyard:

- Remember the SERIOUSNESS of sin.
- Recognize the WICKEDNESS of Satan.
- Revere the HOLINESS of God.

The Effects of God's Judgment:

The FEAR OF GOD came upon all those in the church and those outside the church who heard about God's judgment.

So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things. Acts 5:11

Getting Honest Before God

Are you a hypocrite? Are you pretending to be more spiritual than you are? Then confess your sin and God will forgive you in His great grace.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1John 1:9