

Spending Time with Jesus
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Acts 4:13; Acts 5:1-16

I. TEXT – Read It

A. Setting

1. Peter has healed the **LAME MAN** at Beautiful Gate
2. Peter seizes the **MOMENT** to **PREACH** the **GOSPEL** of the **KINGDOM** and the **RESURRECTION** of **JESUS**
3. Peter and John are **ARRESTED** and brought before the High Priest, Rulers and Elders of the Synagogue
4. Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit **BOLDLY** declares the **RESURRECTED CHRIST** to these **LEADERS**

V 13 Now as they observed the CONFIDENCE of Peter and John, and understood that they were uneducated men, they were MARVELING and began to recognize them as HAVING BEEN WITH JESUS

TPT The council members were astonished as they witnessed the bold courage of Peter and John, especially when they discovered that they were just ordinary men who had never had religious training. Then they began to understand the EFFECT Jesus had on them simply by SPENDING TIME WITH HIM. Standing there with them was the HEALED MAN, and there was nothing they could say.

B. Our GREATEST GIFT in LIFE is ACCESS to Jesus

1. In the **BOOK** of **ACTS**, we see the **TWO-FOLD PURPOSE** of this
 - a. **Personal Development**
 - b. **Cultural Impact**

II. Personal Development – Growing into the CHARACTER and NATURE of Jesus

A. Before ACTS, there were the YEARS of PREPARATION

1. The **DISCIPLES** were **NURTURED** and **TRAINED** by Jesus

- a. They **OBSERVED** as He **healed the sick, cast out devils, forgave sins, performed miracles, demonstrated signs and wonders**
 - b. **Peter, James and John** saw Jesus **TRANSFIGURED** into His **GLORY**
 - c. They **HEARD** the **audible voice** of **GOD HIMSELF**
2. They **LEARNED** the **IMPORTANCE** of **FREE CHOICE**
- a. They were **BID** to **FOLLOW** Jesus
 - b. They were **INSTRUCTED** to **pass out the loaves and fishes**
 - c. They were **SENT** to **preach the gospel, heal the sick, and cast out devils themselves**
 - d. When the **MULTITUDES** left Jesus, they were asked, How about you, will you leave too?
 - d. They were **TOLD** to tarry in Jerusalem for the **Holy Spirit**

In **EACH SITUATION**, they had the **FREEDOM** to **CHOOSE** and they **CHOSE** to **STICK** with **JESUS**

3. **LEARNED** that it was **OK WHEN** the **CHOICES** were **mistakes**
- a. It is often through **MISTAKES** that we **GROW** in **MATURITY**
 - b. The disciples made **MANY MISTAKES**, and **OFTEN** had **STRONG COURSE CORRECTIONS**
 - 1. **BUT** Jesus **NEVER ABANDONED THEM** because of **POOR CHOICES**
 - 2. **LOVE CORRECTED** their **COURSE**

1 Cor 13:7-8 (TPT) *Love is a **SAFE PLACE** of **SHELTER**, for it never stops believing the **BEST** for others. Love never takes **FAILURE** as a **DEFEAT**, for it never gives up. Love never stops loving.*

- a. Peter made a **POOR CHOICE** when he **BOASTED** about dying with Jesus, only to **deny Him three times**.

- b. **However**, he made a **GREAT CHOICE** when he received the **LOVE of JESUS** that **RESTORED HIM** and **RESET** his **SPIRITUAL COMPASS**

The Lord will often **ALLOW** you to **STUMBLE** for **HIGHER ORDER PURPOSE**

III. Cultural Impact – Restoring EARTH to His ORIGINAL INTENT

- A. The **EARLY CHURCH** knew how to **WORSHIP** and **PRAY**
 - 1. When they **PRAYED**, buildings **SHOOK**
 - 2. When they **WORSHIPPED**, **CHAINS** fell off and **PRISON DOORS** opened, and **CAPTIVES** were set **FREE**
 - 3. When they **SPOKE** under the **ANOINTING**, the **HOLY SPIRIT MOVED!**
- B. **Personal Development** was **PURPOSEFUL** for **CULTURE IMPACT**
 - 1. It **ADVANCED** the **AGENDA** of the **KINGDOM of GOD**
 - 2. The **PREACHING** was **BOLD**
 - 3. **MULTITUDES** were **SAVED**
 - 4. **HEARTS** became **KNITTED TOGETHER** as **ONE**
 - 5. **Cities** were **CHANGEED** and **REGIONS TRANSFORMED**

Their **LOVE LANGUAGE** and **SPIRIT** advanced the **KINGDOM**

IV. With this BACKGROUND, we MOVE to **ACTS 5** and the INCIDENT with Ananias and Sapphira

- A. **EARLY CHURCH** was in **ONENESS** together with God
 - 1. **EACH ONE SHARED** with the **OTHER**

Acts 4:32 *And the congregation of those who believed were of one HEART and SOUL; and NOT ONE of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own; but all things were COMMON PROPERTY to them*

- a. *Heart – kardia – seat of passion and desires*
- b. *Soul – psuche -mind, will, and emotions*

- c. *Common – koynos – shared*

Their **HEARTS** and **SOULS** were **KNITTED TOGETHER** in **COVENANT LOVE**

- 2. **TWO THINGS** were **PREVALENT** in this **ONENESS**
 - a. **GREAT SPIRITUAL POWER** giving **WITNESS** to the **MESSAGE** of the **GOSPEL** of the **RESURRECTED CHRIST**
 - b. **NO NEEDS** of **ANY** of the **CHURCH**

There was a **MINDSET** that **OWNERSHIP** belonged to **GOD** and **STEWARDSHIP** belonged to **MAN**

- c. This was **SO MUCH SO** that **LAND OWNERS** and **HOME OWNERS** sold their **PROPERTIES** and brought the **PROCEEDS** to the **APOSTLES**

SO, ALL who were **BLESSED** became a **BLESSING** to **ALL**

- B. In this **SETTING**, there arose an **EVIL PLOT** that **BACKFIRED**
 - 1. **Ananias and Sapphira** sold property and **KEPT BACK** a portion for themselves in **FULL KNOWLEDGE**
 - a. *kept back – embezzled – kept back that which belonged to someone else*

Embezzle – to take that which belongs to someone else for yourself – to steal

- b. *full knowledge – complete hidden awareness*
 - 2. Ananias **BROUGHT** the **MONEY GIFT** and laid it at the Apostles feet, **appearing to be just like** Joseph and Barnabas and others
 - 3. But Peter heard the **Holy Spirit SPEAK** and said

V 3 *Ananias why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land. While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God. And as he heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last.*

- 4. A few hours later, **Sapphira pops in** and **Peter asks her** if she sold the property for **such and such price**

- a. She answers **YES**, and was **REBUKED** by Peter

V 9 *Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they shall carry you out as well. And she fell immediately at his feet, and breathed her last*

WELL, WHAT HAPPENED TO LOVE??

C. God QUICKLY JUDGED the EVIL HEART

1. LOOK at Proverbs 6:16-19

Proverbs 6:16-19 *There are six evils that God hates and a seventh that is an abomination to Him: putting others down while considering yourself superior. Spreading lies and rumors, spilling blood of the innocent, plotting evil in your heart toward one another, gloating over doing what's plainly wrong; spouting lies in false testimony, and stirring up strife between friends. These are entirely morally reprehensible to God*

- a. They **tried** to offer **God** a **LIE** – it was **premeditated deception** from the **father of lies**
- b. They wanted the **GLORY** that **others were receiving** without paying the **FULL PRICE** of **their offering** to God
- c. **DEATH** was the only **PRICE** to be paid for this **WICKEDNESS** of **MAN**

Sam – *Don't offer God a **DECEPTION LIE** for a freewill offering and expect to receive a 100-fold return for kingdom purpose. It will **NEVER BE ACCEPTABLE** to **GOD***

Marty Gabler – *The sad truth is that they **KNEW EXACTLY** what they were doing and did it anyway. And one of the sobering factors in this story is that the consequences of **OUR WILLFUL DISOBEDIENCES** do not always come **IMMEDIATELY***

Barbara Wentroble – *Ananias and Sapphira did not have to do this. They were not required. They clearly wanted to appear generous but had greed in their hearts. Integrity is needed when trusted with finances.*

Bro Jim – *Don't **BOAST** about your devotion to Christ without corresponding action. Don't let deception mark any part of your walk and ministry. If you do, there are consequences*

2. NOTICE – This was NOT a PRIMARY MONEY ISSUE; it was a HEART ISSUE – A deliberate EVIL attempt to be DECEITFUL

And FATHER would NOT ALLOW IT to POLLUTE HIS GLORIOUS CHURCH

So, He INTENTIONALLY made a STATEMENT that HE IS RIGHTEOUS!!

And the COST was DEATH

V. The FRUIT of RIGHTEOUSNESS

A. GREAT FEAR!!

V11 And GREAT FEAR came upon the WHOLE CHURCH, and UPON ALL who HEARD of these thigs.

1. *Fear – terror / respect / reverence / honor*
2. Not all FEAR is BAD!

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge

Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the Lord is to hate evil

Proverbs 10:27 The fear of the Lord prolongs life

Proverbs 14:27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life

B. INCREASE – Signs and Wonders and ADDED SOULS

V 14 And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women were constantly added to their number

C. Regional Transformation

V 16 And also the people from the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing their sick and afflicted with unclean spirits; and they were all being healed.

D. Greater OPPOSITION and GREATER INTENTIONALITY

V 17-19 But the high priest rose up along with his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy; and they laid their hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail. But an ANGEL of the LORD during the night OPENED THE GATES of the prison and taking them out he said, go your way, stand and speak t the people in the temple the WHOLE MESSAGE of THIS LIFE

1. The next morning the Council sends for them, only to open the prison door and FINDING NO ONE THERE – THEY were in the TEMPLE PREACHING AGAIN
2. VS 40-41 They were *FLOGGED and RELEASED, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.*

V 42 *And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they KEPT RIGHT ON TEACHING and PREACHING Jesus as THE CHRIST*

FAMILY, when we are INTENTIONAL to DO THINGS GOD'S WAY, WE WILL BE BLESSED beyond MEASURE