

Small Group Guide - 3/27/22

Acts 5:12-16 - Commitment to Evangelism

Sermon Outline/Notes

Introduction:

Summary passage

- * Serves as a transition
- * Acts 2:42-27 - transitions to healing/Sanhedrin of Acts 3
- * Acts 4:32-25 - transitions to Ananias and Sapphira
- * Acts 5:12-16 - transitions to apostles being arrested again

Important moment captured here:

- * Acts 4:18-21 - warned
- * Acts 4:32-35 - they prayed
- * Since then, it's been within the walls of the church so to speak
- * Would they actually disobey the Sanhedrin and obey Jesus?

I. The Commitment to Evangelism (5:12)

- * Who?
 - * They were all committed
- * What?
 - * Preaching the gospel
- * Where?
 - * Their evangelism took place where the people were
- * What is the primary mission of the church?
 - * Social justice or culture reform?
 - * Evangelism
 - * The church was committed to evangelism
 - * When I say church I mean people.
 - * They hadn't lost sight of their calling
 - * They had zeal to be committed to the mission of God
- * By nature of being a Christian, we are witnesses. (Acts 1:8)
- * We are to be committed to personal evangelism.
- * Who is in your life that needs to hear about Jesus?

II. The Responses to Evangelism (5:12b–14) (parenthesis)

- * Commitment to evangelism is nurtured within the body. (12b)
- * Not all joined them (13)
 - * Fear of the Sanhedrin
 - * Ananias and Sapphira
 - * No half-hearted commitment here
 - * They weighed the cost, and it wasn't worth it to them.
- * Multitudes believed

III. The News of their Evangelism Spread (5:15–16)

- * First hint of the gospel spreading outside of Jerusalem
- * Matthew 4:23–25; 5:1–3
- * Gospel ministry encourages the “poor in spirit”
 - * Those who know they need it
 - * For those who know they need Jesus come the benefits of embracing Him
 - * Who receives the benefits of Jesus’s grace and power? The humble, the poor, and the desperate
- * Gospel ministry enrages the prideful (next 2 weeks)
- * How do you approach Christ?
 - * Do you approach Him as one who is poor in spirit?
 - * We must continue to come to Him helpless and in need of grace.
 - * We don’t come to him “middle-class in spirit” (as if we could take care of ourselves but just need some assistance)
- * We come to him poor in spirit, or we don’t come to him at all.
- * Sadly, and we will see it, many don’t come to him because of pride.
- * **Matthew 19:24 - “Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”**
- * The apostles didn’t develop a business plan/military strategy that started with the elite.
- * They followed the compassion strategy like Jesus modeled.
- * The gospel started with the marginalized.
- * Its initial impact was in the social fringes.
- * You are exactly who the gospel is for and who God uses to spread His gospel message.

Small Group Questions

1. What spoke to you in the Bible passage and sermon Sunday morning?
2. Why is it important to see that all the believers were committed to evangelism?
3. How committed to evangelism are you? What keeps us from being committed to it?
4. How does commitment to evangelism nurture unity within the body of Christ?
5. Do you think what happened to Ananias and Sapphira had anything to do with some of the people not joining the church? Is this a good thing or bad dynamic?
6. What does it mean to be “poor in spirit”? Do we remain “poor in spirit” after we come to Jesus, or is that just before we get saved?
7. How can you be committed to personal evangelism this week?