

09/19/21 Message

Part of The End of Me
September 18, 2021

Message: Authentic

Series: Broken to be Whole

Recap: This is the fifth message in our series The End of Me. The foundation of this series in the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5-7. It's about DTR – define the relationship – between you and Jesus. Are you a fan or a follower of Jesus?

Introduction

Matthew 5:8 (NLT)

3 “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

4 God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.

6 God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.

7 God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

8 God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.

9 God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

10 God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

11 “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers.

12 Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

Matthew 5:8 (NLT)

God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.

Matthew 5:8 (MSG)

You're blessed when you get your inside world – your mind and heart – put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

- That word pure can also be interpreted CLEAN

And if your hearts are pure – you will see God!

- To see God is to KNOW God

You want to know God? You have to see Him! You want to see Him? You have to live your life in such a way that He wants to hang out with you. And that means living a pure, clean life!

—Pastor Chad

Two Ways of Living

Acts 4:32-37 (NLT)

32 All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.

33 The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all.

34 There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them

35 and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

36 For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means "Son of Encouragement"). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus.

37 He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles.

- The early church was UNITED in heart and mind

They got it! They understood that what they had belonged to God, not them, so they shared everything they had.

—Pastor Chad

Joseph's name was changed to Barnabas because Barnabas means, "son of encouragement."

- Barnabas was an ENCOURAGER

Acts 5:1-11 (NLT)

- 1 But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property.
- 2 He brought part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife's consent, he kept the rest.
- 3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself.
- 4 The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!"
- 5 As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified.
- 6 Then some young men got up, wrapped him in a sheet, and took him out and buried him.
- 7 About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.
- 8 Peter asked her, "Was this the price you and your husband received for your land?" "Yes," she replied, "that was the price."
- 9 And Peter said, "How could the two of you even think of conspiring to test the Spirit of the Lord like this? The young men who buried your husband are just outside the door, and they will carry you out, too."
- 10 Instantly, she fell to the floor and died. When the young men came in and saw that she was dead, they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.
- 11 Great fear gripped the entire church and everyone else who heard what had happened.

Notice the stark difference between Barnabas – and Ananias/Sapphira!

Two different characteristics of people – one generous, one selfish; one faithful, one sinful.

- BARNABAS was authentic
- ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA were not
- Barnabas brought ALL to the church (to God)

- Ananias and Sapphira brought PART to the church (to God)
- Barnabas sold his land and gave the money to the church because he loved GOD
- Ananias sold their land and gave some of the money to the church because they loved THEMSELVES more than they loved God

Matthew 5:8 teaches us because Barnabas was real, and because his heart was pure, his motives were pure - God blessed him. Matthew 5:8 teaches us because Ananias and Sapphira's hearts were impure, their motives were impure - they missed out on God's blessings. Truth be known, they missed out on God all together."

—Pastor Chad

Authentic

Real Christians who follow Jesus never experience death. (cf. John 11:25)

People who reject Jesus, choose death. (Matthew 25:41; 2 Thessalonians 1:9)

Three points from Ananias and Sapphira

- A divided heart is JEALOUS (Acts 4:36-5:2)
- A divided heart is GREEDY (Acts 5:1-2)
- A divided heart is DISHONEST (Acts 5:3-9)

For those who are genuinely authentic - God desperately wants to spend time with you!