



it starts with one

IT STARTS WITH ONE, PART 7: THE RIPPLE EFFECT

Choices matter. Motives matter. All it takes is one small thing to either bless everything or blow everything up.

BIG IDEA: One small decision can have a huge impact.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever had a “small” or seemingly trivial incident turn into a major headache? What happened? Why?
2. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Acts 4:32-37*

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. 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.

Acts 4:32-37 (NLT)

3. The believers in Acts formed community and devoted themselves to four activities. What were those activities? What activities serve as the glue that holds our local church together in community?
4. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Acts 5:1-11.*

But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property. 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.

Acts 4:24-30 (NLT)

5. Commentators agree that Ananias and Sapphira had every right to withhold part of the proceeds from the sale of land. What then provoked them to claim they gave all rather the part of their proceeds to the new

church community?

6. During the message Carlo said, “One small choice to act shady could wreck the entire community.” Do you agree with that statement? If so, what does “wreck” look like for our church community?
7. When it comes to integrity, What does it mean to have a healthy fear of the Lord? See 2 Chronicles 19:9, Job 28:28, Psalm 111:10, Proverbs 1:7.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

How should our local church deal with breaches in integrity among our family? How will you balance grace and truth when it comes to the choices you make and the choices others make?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

But Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus. And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: “Jesus is the Messiah.”

Acts 5:29; 41-42