

**Acts 5 –17 May 2020**

## **“What Will Christianity Cost You”**

### Introduction

Jesus has risen from the dead and ascended to be seated at the right-hand of the Father.

Jesus has ordained there to be an “Age of the Church” empowered by His HS where He pours His attention toward THE WHOLE WORLD

The goal of the church is to being living witnesses of Who He is and to offer Christ’s plan of redemption.

Being born into the Kingdom of God separates us from the kingdom of this world.

But what will that cost you?

**Today, we’ll see 4 Things You’ll need to choose to give up in order to serve Christ**

## **#1 – To Serve Christ, you need to give up the shame of living a double life. (Chap 5:1-16)**

Read Vs 1-2

1. End of chapter 4 told us of the great unity that they all had from physically helping each other
2. Here's a specific story of this couple lying about how much they were offering to the church.

Read Vs 3-6

1. They could have offered anything or nothing, but the great sin was pretending to do something that they weren't doing. Lying to man and God.
2. Notice who they lied to.
  - a. Vs 3 – You've lied to the Holy Spirit
  - b. Vs 4 – You've lied against God Himself
  - c. This is a primary verse showing HS is God
3. Human heart has a great desire to be 1 thing & deceptively act as if we're something much better.
  - a. This is pride of life
  - b. It's a double life of hypocrisy

## Read Vs 7-10

1. She was clearly a willing participant in this lie.
  - a. Did she begin it & he went along or vis versa?
  - b. But it's never a defense to say, "Well they talked me into it." (Adam and Eve)
2. There's no indication that Ananias & Sapphira didn't go to heaven. The punishment was this life.
3. God is clearly interested in His church being pure / holy and single focused.
4. What shame it is when we, by pride, lead a double life and find ourselves lying to people!
  - a. Read Prov 11:2 – Reject pride, gain wisdom
  - b. **But how do we get this wisdom?**
  - c. Read Prov 9:10 – By fear of the Lord
  - d. And that takes us to vs 11-16

## Read Vs 11-13

1. Vs 13 – This was end of Christian Communism
2. Casual Christianity was killed, for time being
3. Great purity in the church brings great power!

## Read Vs 14-16

1. Many more became born again
2. The shadow of Peter healing the sick
  - a. This one used their superstition of the shadow as a point of faith to believe God.
    - i. As the woman who touch the hem of Jesus
  - b. Notice vs 16 – sick & vexed w/ spirits is two different things. Comes up later.
3. Could we walk humbly w/ that kind of power?
4. Can we w/ the power God gives us now?

So to serve Christ...

*Is to give up the shame of living a double-life of deception / hypocrisy in exchange for purity, power & reverence of God. What a blessing!*

## **#2 – To Serve Christ, you need to give up the fear of punishment and death. (Chap 5:17-32)**

Read Vs 17-24

1. The angel didn't tell them to flee persecution but to stand up & preach everlasting life w/o fear!!
2. Their preaching put fear into them about what this would lead to.

Read Vs 25-29

1. Filled w/ doctrine of Jesus, not importance of Peter.
2. No fear of man, leads to serving Christ w/ power.
3. Read Matt 10:28 – Don't fear those that kill body

Read Vs 30-32

1. God is giving witness thru the H.S. of His power
2. Read II Tim 1:7 – Not fear, but power, love...

So to serve Christ...

*Is to give up fear of punishment & death in exchange for power, love and a sound mind. What a blessing!*

### **#3 – To Serve Christ, you need to give up the striving of self-will & self-effort. (Chap 5:33-39)**

Read Vs 33-39

1. This is the very smart man Gamaliel that it's said that he couldn't keep enough books in front of his student Saul. (Paul)
2. I wouldn't want to be Gamaliel right now.
  - a. Although he has brought peace in place of conflict.
  - b. He has ignored his responsibility to take a side regarding who Jesus is!
  - c. He's the perfect representation of Rev 3:16
    - i. Read Rev 3:16
3. Gamaliel's advice is essentially correct.
  - a. If this is self-effort and self-will on the part of the Apostles, although it may prosper for a season, will ultimately burn away as nothing.
  - b. If this is God thru His H.S. doing a work, nothing & no one can withstand it!

4. Everything we do for Christ that has value is from God working in and thru us & not of our self
  - a. Read John 1:12-13 – Just being born again, isn't by our effort but by God.
  - b. Read II Pet 1:21 – The Bible was brought to us, not by men's efforts, but by God.
  - c. Read Gal 1:1 – Our very mission in life isn't by our own efforts but by God
  - d. Matt 16:18 – When what we do is based on the work of Christ & His msg, it can't go under
5. These verses are our vision statement at Calvary
  - a. If we're working independent of God's leading or doctrine, it will come to nothing.
  - b. If we're led of His H.S. to give, then no one and nothing can stop us!

So to serve Christ...

*Is to give up striving of self-will, self-effort in exchange for a mission that even the gates of hell can't prevail against.*

## **#4 – To Serve Christ, you need to give up the temporary pleasures of this life. (Chap 5:40-42)**

Read Vs 40-42

1. They were beaten and yet departed with joy!
2. B/c they believed that one day serving God thru persecution is better than 1,000 luxurious days that end in death.
3. Read Heb 11:24-26
  - a. Do you value the things of God greater than the earthly rewards that could be gained now?
4. Read II Thes 1:3-5
  - a. We have a kingdom to gain!

So to serve Christ...

*Is to give up the temporary pleasures of this life in exchanged for an eternal Kingdom!*



## Conclusion

So when you choose to serve Christ you will lose...

- 1. You'll loss the shame of living a double-life**
  - a. It's so tiring to lie & try coving you tracks.
  - b. Living in singleness of heart and purity brings power and a reverence for God
- 2. You'll loss the fear of punishment & death**
  - a. Fear would have us to flee from our mission to honor God with our time, treasure & talents
  - b. Living in faith instead brings power, love and a sound mind with wisdom.
- 3. You'll loss the striving of self-will & self-effort**
  - a. Our efforts will eventually burn away like grassy stubble. All that striving for nothing.
  - b. Letting your mission be guided by the H.S., now nothing can stop that from conquering!
- 4. You'll loss the temporary pleasures of this life**
  - a. You may even be beaten.
  - b. But you'll gain an eternal perfect kingdom!