

Acts 4:32-5:11  
Cross Brand  
C3:16  
4.1.26  
Source  
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I am amazed that you are so quickly turning away from him who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— <sup>7</sup> not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are troubling you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. Galatians 1:6-7

## I. THE SHARING OF THE SAINTS

<sup>32</sup> Now the entire group of those who believed were of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but instead they held everything in common. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on all of them. <sup>34</sup> For there was not a needy person among them because all those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of what was sold, <sup>35</sup> and laid them at the apostles' feet. This was then distributed to each person as any had need.

<sup>36</sup> Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus by birth, the one the apostles called Barnabas (which is translated Son of Encouragement), <sup>37</sup> sold a field he owned, brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

### A. SPIRITUAL PARTICIPATION

<sup>32</sup> Now the entire group of those who believed were of one heart and mind

The basis of their shared life was twofold.

First, they were preoccupied with ministering to each other.

Second, they were focused beyond themselves to reaching the lost world with the gospel.

### B. STRONG PREACHING

<sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on all of them.

**The resurrection of the Lord Jesus** was the major emphasis of apostolic preaching.

### C. SHARING PRACTICALLY

<sup>32</sup> Now the entire group of those who believed were of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but instead they held everything in common.

<sup>34</sup> For there was not a needy person among them because all those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of what was sold, <sup>35</sup> and laid them at the apostles' feet. This was then distributed to each person as any had need.

The phrase **not one of them** shows that this attitude was characteristic of everyone inclusively.

“If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, stay warm, and be well fed,’ but you don’t give them what the body needs, what good is it?” James 2:15-16 “But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without pretense.” James 3:17

The result of this practical demonstration of love in Jerusalem was that **there was not a needy person among them**.

The proceeds **would be distributed to each, as any had need**.

The donations are to be placed in the control of the spiritual teachers who are then responsible before God for their use.

#### D. A SAMPLE PERSON

<sup>36</sup> Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus by birth, the one the apostles called Barnabas (which is translated Son of Encouragement), <sup>37</sup> sold a field he owned, brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

He introduced Paul to the suspicious Jerusalem congregation.

He undertook a mission to minister to the Greek converts in Antioch.

He was Paul's personal companion.

He accompanied Paul on his first missionary journey.

## II. THE SINS OF THE SAINTS

**5** But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. <sup>2</sup> However, he kept back part of the proceeds with his wife's knowledge, and brought a portion of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.

<sup>3</sup> “Ananias,” Peter asked, “why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the proceeds of the land? <sup>4</sup> Wasn't it yours while you possessed it? And after it was sold, wasn't it at your disposal? Why is it that you planned this thing in your heart? You have not lied to people but to God.” <sup>5</sup> When he heard these words, Ananias dropped dead, and a great fear came on all who heard. <sup>6</sup> The young men got up, wrapped his body, carried him out, and buried him.

<sup>7</sup> About three hours later, his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. <sup>8</sup> “Tell me,” Peter asked her, “did you sell the land for this price?”

“Yes,” she said, “for that price.”

<sup>9</sup> Then Peter said to her, “Why did you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.”

<sup>10</sup> Instantly she dropped dead at his feet. When the young men came in, they found her dead, carried her out, and buried her beside her husband. <sup>11</sup> Then great fear came on the whole church and on all who heard these things.

#### A. SPIRITUAL PRETENSE

<sup>5</sup> But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. <sup>2</sup> However, he kept back part of the proceeds with his wife’s knowledge, and brought a portion of it and laid it at the apostles’ feet.

They saw an opportunity to make a double profit: They would gain spiritual prestige and still make some money on the side.

The overt sin was lying, by publicly pretending to have given all the proceeds of a sale of their property.

#### B. SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION

<sup>3</sup> “Ananias,” Peter asked, “why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the proceeds of the land? <sup>4</sup> Wasn’t it yours while you possessed it? And after it was sold, wasn’t it at your disposal? Why is it that you planned this thing in your heart? You have not lied to people but to God.”

#### C. SWIFT PUNISHMENT

<sup>5</sup> When he heard these words, Ananias dropped dead, and a great fear came on all who heard. <sup>6</sup> The young men got up, wrapped his body, carried him out, and buried him.

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<sup>10</sup> Instantly she dropped dead at his feet. When the young men came in, they found her dead, carried her out, and buried her beside her husband

The ultimate cause of Ananias’s death was God’s judgement.

#### D. SOLEMN PURGING

<sup>11</sup> Then great fear came on the whole church and on all who heard these things.

One benefit of church discipline is that it deters others from sinning

III. Application for us!

We should be generous

II Corinthians 9:6 The point is this:<sup>[a]</sup> The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously.

We should never give to impress others.

Money  
Property

Matthew 6:1 "Be careful not to practice your righteousness<sup>[a]</sup> in front of others to be seen by them. Otherwise, you have no reward with your Father in heaven.

We must acknowledge the awful consequences of sin.

Galatians 6:7 Don't be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a person sows he will also reap,

We must be aware the cunning nature of our enemy Satan.

I Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.