

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning – 1-11-26
Christianity 103 – Message 5 Part 3
Christianity is not a game to be played, but a life to be lived.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back at last week:

- 1) It is a fact; it is a clear truth – “Where there is not vision, the people perish...” Prov. 29:18
- 2) As I said last week, the church is the wildcard in this.
- 3) My hope for you this year –

b. Taking a look back at Acts:

- 1) What impact did the story of Ananias and Sapphira have on you?
 - a) What do you remember?
- 2) This sin of theirs was against the Church. It had to be dealt with.
 - a) If satan cannot defeat from without, he will seek to do so from within.

c. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) I think the whole Church in Acts got it.
 - a) We do reap what we sow.
 - b) Acts 5:11 – “great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.”
- 2) The question isn’t just how man will respond but what should man learn?
- 3) What happened next?
 - a) Life keeps moving forward. A Christian, who is on mission, continues forward.
- 4) If these next few verses are not rightly divided, it can take people to places that do harm to Christianity and sound theology.

2. Many signs and wonders are happening. Acts 5:12

a. Shouldn’t this be happening today?

- 1) John 14:12-14 –
- 2) Jesus performed many miracles as we know. Why?

b. What qualified them to be an Apostle? Verse 12

- 1) Peter is an Apostle because he had seen the risen Lord.
- 2) Zoom out for a minute.
 - a) God’s plan concerning the church - Ephesians 2:20 –
 - b) During this time, God is using signs and wonders to build His Church.
- 3) Today – God has set forth apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. Eph. 4:11.

c. Who are they and what do they do?

- 1) Apostle – means a delegate, one sent forth with a commission.
 - a) They had seen the resurrected Christ.
 - b) Today – an Apostle – we would call them a missionary.
- 2) Prophet – an interpreter, spokesman for God, one through whom God speaks.
 - a) In the Old Testament – to foretell what God was going to do.
 - b) In the New Testament – received truth from God, communicated truth from God for the purpose of edification, exhortation and comfort for the Church. I Cor. 14:3
- 3) Evangelist – one who is a bringer of good tidings. The heralds of salvation through Jesus.
 - a) Someone might be gifted in sharing the Gospel, but it is still each believer’s responsibility.
- 4) Pastor/Teacher –
 - a) “Pastor” – shepherd who leads, feeds, protects and corrects the flock.
 - b) “Teacher” – one who teaches concerning the things of God, and the duties of man.

d. So, what about today and miracles?

- 1) The foundation of the church was laid by the apostles and prophets through signs and wonders to authenticate the message of the apostles and to establish the early church.
- 2) Does that mean that God will not perform miracles today?
 - a) Today – what one says and does as a Pastor, Teacher, Evangelist is tested not by a miracle like then but by the Word of God.
 - b) We measure what we see and hear today by the work of the Spirit and the Word.
 - c) How do things like this gain so much traction trying to build doctrine from the book of Acts?
 - d) I John 2:18-29 –
- 3) If you are concerned that you are not seeing miracles today, I can tell you how you can see one.
 - a) When someone –

e. They gathered together:

- 1) The last part of verse 12, the church is gathering together at the temple.

3. Things were getting very REAL in and outside the Church. Acts 5:13

- a. Verse 13 –
 - 1) Christianity was so real, so respected as God was working in and through His Church, nobody would pretend to be a believer if they weren't.
- b. Verse 14 –
 - 1) More and more were being added to the Lord. Those who believed in Jesus.

4. Today's Take Away:

- a. Are you convinced that without a Vision, people will perish?
- b. Has the story of Ananias and Sapphira impacted you?
- c. People were turning to Jesus and being changed.