

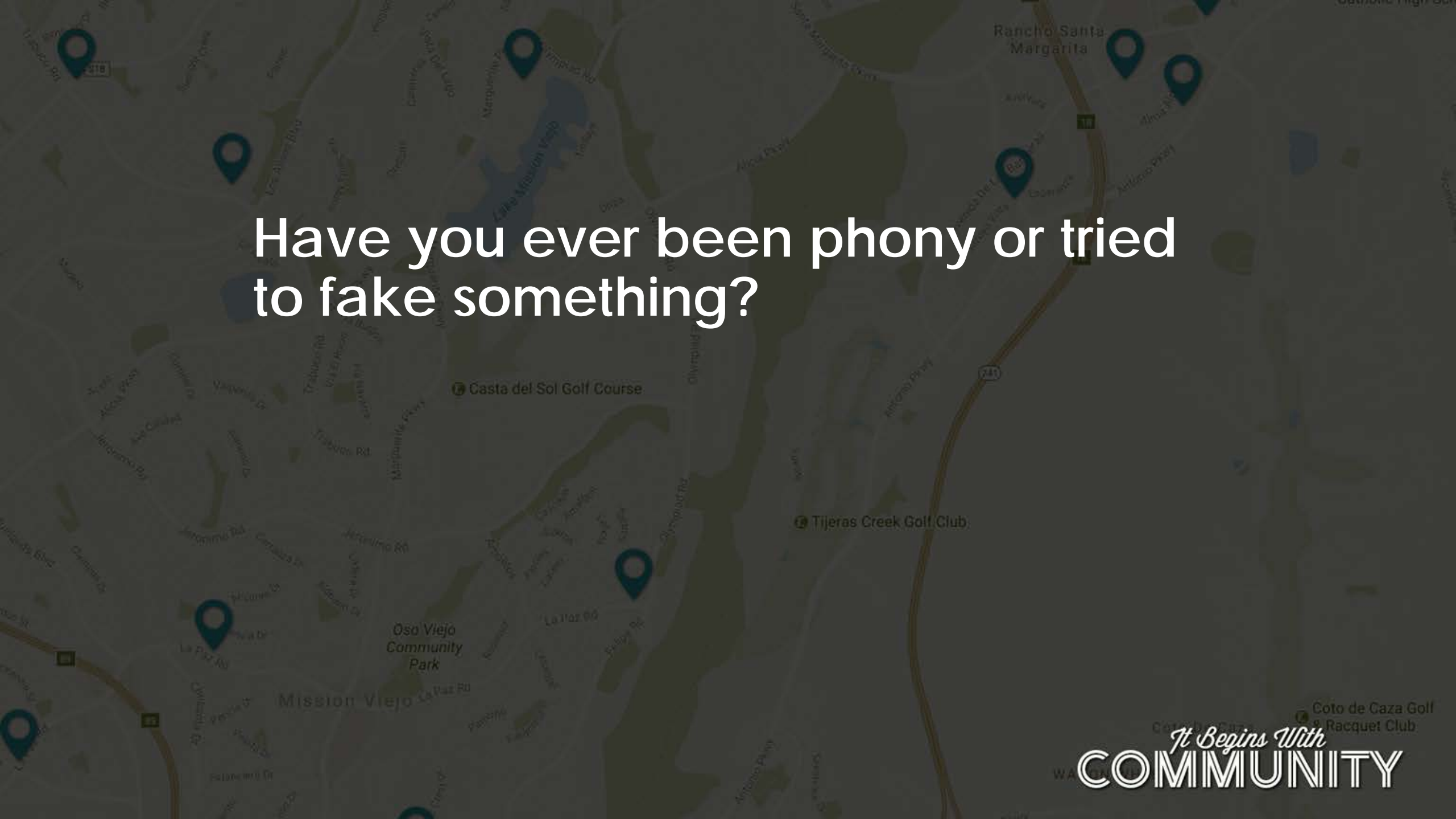
A map of the Mission Viejo area in Southern California, featuring a central text overlay. The map shows various streets, landmarks like Lake Mission Viejo and Oso Viejo Community Park, and several blue location pins. The text 'It Begins With' is in a white script font, and 'COMMUNITY' is in a large, white, outlined, sans-serif font. The background is a semi-transparent grey rectangle.

It Begins With
COMMUNITY



It Begins with Community

Part 5: The Temptation of Community (Fake It)



Have you ever been phony or tried to fake something?

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Ananias and Sapphira

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Acts 5:1-11

¹But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira sold a piece of property, ²and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? ⁴While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man, but to God."

Acts 5:1-11

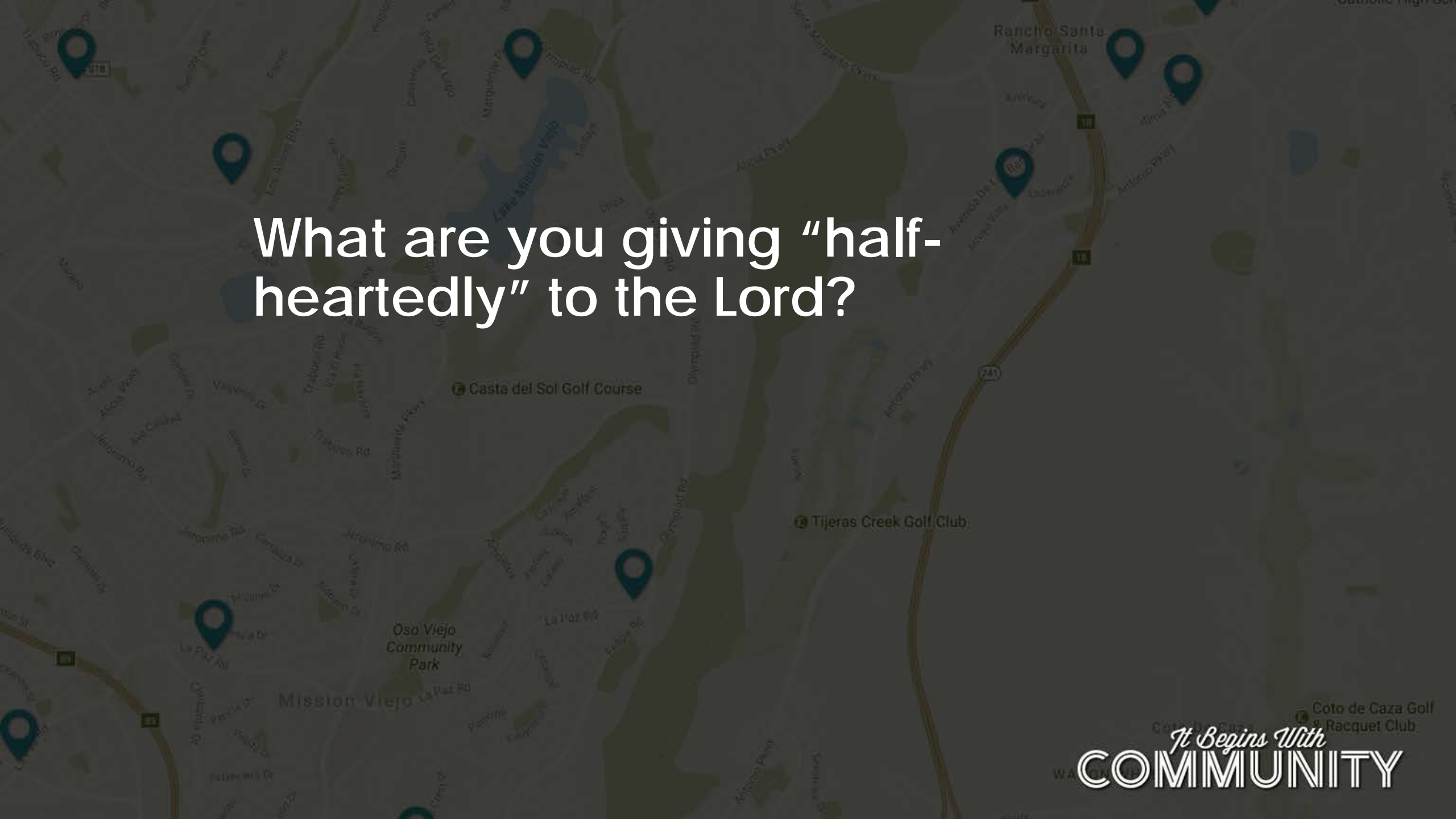
⁵When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. ⁶The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

⁷After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." ⁹But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."

Acts 5:1-11

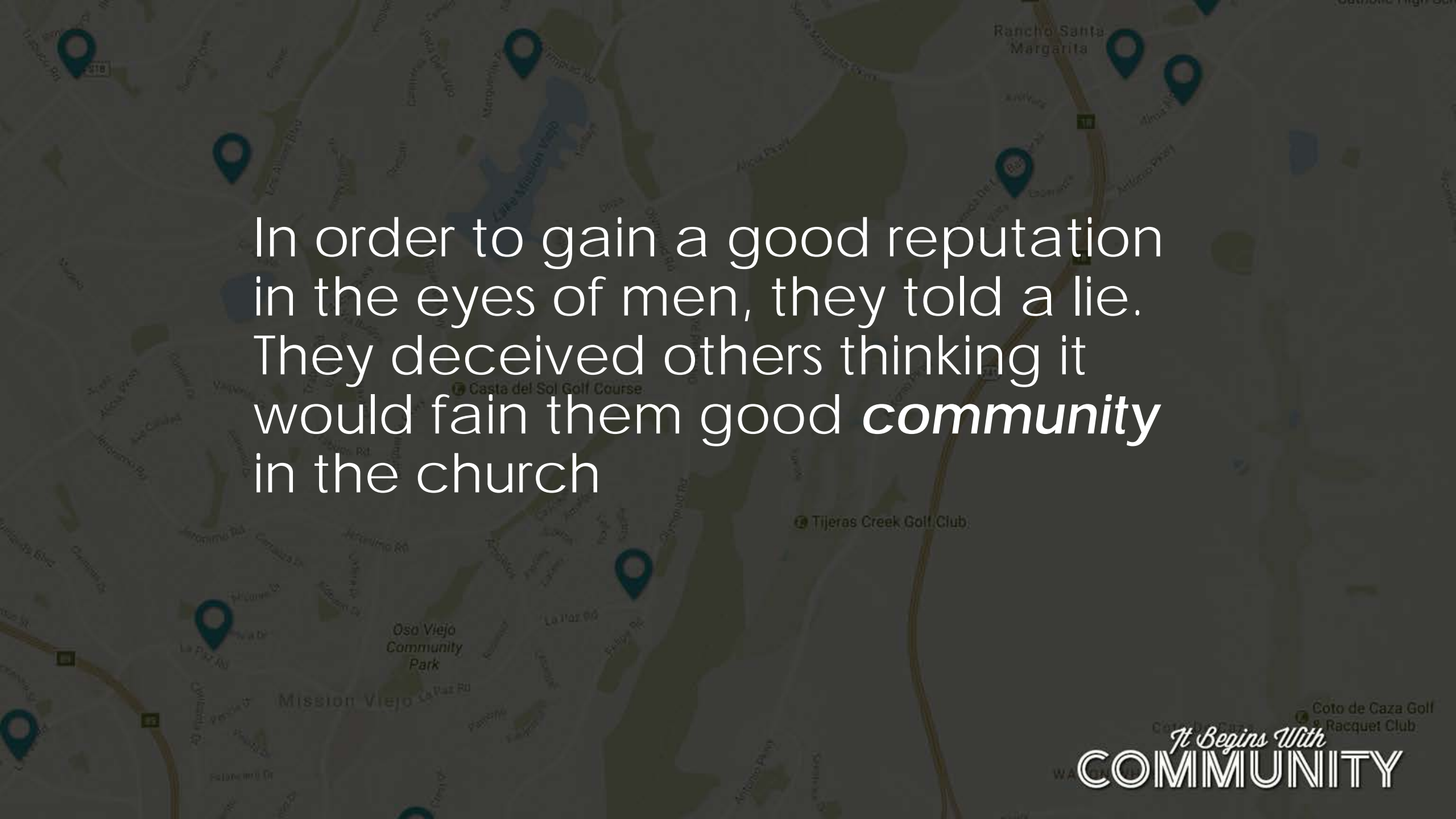
¹⁰Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last . When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and her beside her husband.

¹¹And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.




What are you giving “half-heartedly” to the Lord?

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In order to gain a good reputation
in the eyes of men, they told a lie.
They deceived others thinking it
would gain them good *community*
in the church

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Beware of Doing Things to Be Seen by Men (vv. 1-2, 7-8)

Galatians 1:10

For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.



Sincerity in Community is What the Spirit Contends For
(vv. 3-6, 9-10)

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Acts 24:16

So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.

1 John 1:7

But if we *walk in the light*, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Unity is Vastly Different from Conformity (v. 11)

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Psalm 133:1

How good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in *unity*

How can we avoid the temptation
to fake it?

1. Don't seek to please man. Seek to please God.



1. Don't seek to please man. Seek to please God.

2. Desire to be a person of authentic integrity.



1. Don't seek to please man. Seek to please God.

2. Desire to be a person of authentic integrity.

3. Don't conform, be transformed by God's unifying love.

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It Begins With
COMMUNITY