



Acts: *To the Ends of the Earth*

Acts 4:32-5:11

Introduction

- ❖ Acts 2:42—*devoted themselves to the apostles ' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers*
- ❖ Matthew 7:21-23—*"Not everyone who says to me, ' Lord, Lord, ' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ' Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? ' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness."*

Authentic Christianity: Barnabas

❖ **Acts 4:32-37**

Authentic, genuine, Spirit-filled Christianity is one in which God's people love one another more, love truth more, and love their money and their stuff less.

1. The Church was of one heart and soul

- ❖ John 17:21—*that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*

2. The Church continued to love and preach truth even in the face of opposition

- ❖ John 8:32—*and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*
- ❖ John 17:17—*Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.*

3. The Church didn't love their wealth and possessions too much

- ❖ Acts 5:4—*While it remained unsold, **did it not remain your own?** And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal?*

4. A godly example: Barnabas

Counterfeit Christianity: Ananias and Sapphira

❖ **Acts 5:1-11**

What does this text teach us about Ananias and Sapphira?

1. The sin of Ananias and Sapphira

- Deceit
- Covetousness

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- ✦ Matthew 5:16—*let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

2. The state of Ananias and Sapphira's souls

- ✦ 1 Corinthians 6:20—*for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*
- ✦ Matthew 7:21-23—*"Not everyone who says to me, ' Lord, Lord, ' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ' Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? ' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness."*

What does this text teach us about God?

1. God is holy and hates all sin

- ✦ Proverbs 6:16-19—*There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.*

2. God is just and judges sinners

- ✦ Psalm 5:5-6—*The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; **you hate all evildoers**. You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.*
- ✦ Psalm 11:5—*The Lord tests the righteous, but **his soul hates the wicked** and the one who loves violence.*

3. God protects and purifies his Church

- ✦ Matthew 16:18—*I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*
- ✦ Revelation 21:27—*nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

How ought this text affect us?

- ✦ Acts 5:5— *great fear came upon all who heard of it*
- ✦ Acts 5:11—*And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.*