

ACTS 2:42

THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE APOSTLES' TEACHING AND TO FELLOWSHIP, TO THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND TO PRAYER.



Day 1

Word of God Acts 4:32-37

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

³⁶ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

Day 1 Discussion

Fellowship

The ones who believed were unified and undeniably selfless. They believed what the apostles, who knew that the resurrection was compelling and real, said and knew what was to be done. It's amazing how the Scripture says they were one of the same and had everything in common, which is often not the case at all in our world. In this case, Luke, the author, was speaking about the apostles sharing their earthly and personal possessions. The people brought all and everything, leaving nothing behind or stored away.

The orthodox Bible talks not of communal living, but of the church doing what is good for the community, and that is what took place here. What Barnabas did was an incredible example of Christian generosity. He was a Levite, and Levites were known for inheriting property in the holy land and being very wealthy. When we accept a real and authentic relationship with Jesus we still must work to be generous; it doesn't just become easy because we said "Yes," but the relationship makes it worth it. The idea that we let our possessions take hold of our lives is outrageous. When we go to Heaven, we can't bring anything with us. When we are greeted by God, do we want God to ask about the latest iPhone, Xbox, car, or big house? Or will God already know how we've been glorifying Him with our time, money, relationships, and presence in His kingdom?

Do you think you could sell everything to lay at the feet of the apostles to truly glorify Jesus? Instead of focusing on how to save more money for the latest things, ask God where He wants you to invest your heart and perhaps bless others with your possessions and your time.

Day 2 READ

Word of God Galatians 6:1-10

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. **2** Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. **3** If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. **4** Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, **5** for each one should carry their own load. **6** Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.**8** Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. **9** Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. **10** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Day 3

Word of God Acts 5:1-11

Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. ² With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

³ Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴ Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

⁵ When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. ⁶ Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

⁷ About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸ Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"

"Yes," she said, "that is the price."

⁹ Peter said to her, "How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

¹⁰ At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹ Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

Day 3 Discussion

Fake Fellowship

Ananias was a high priest whom Paul tried, a jealous member of the church, and a Christian in Damascus. He is portrayed as dishonest. Ananias was unfaithful with his wealth from selling the land, he then asked his wife to lie with him about the funds, and in the end, the couple was taken down by Satan together.

The love of money will lose every single time. Lying is rooted deep in our hearts, and we must choose to be honest. Ananias and Sapphira were sinful in their hearts, and death was the consequence. When we fill our hearts and time with people who do not reciprocate the love of Jesus, we, too, become like Sapphira, oblivious and unaware of whom we are surrounding ourselves with and having those consequences take hold of our everyday lives. When we take the wrong path or make a bad decision we feel we cannot bounce back from that incident. Verse 11 talks about this "great fear" (fear meaning respect). All who were in the church heard of what Ananias and Sapphira had done and chose to do the opposite.



Day 3 Discussion (continued)

When we put our trust, hope, and respect in man, it can make or break our relationships. When we put our trust, hope, and respect in God, He mends our hearts and our relationships and holds us accountable to being open and broken with ourselves. The godly fear we must have is about seeking God when we feel no other path, plan, or road. Respect what God has done, question when necessary, and most of all, surround yourself with people who will lift you up to seek God.

Is there an area in your life that you can't wrap your head around letting God figure out? Repent to God for desiring that control and not trusting His plan for your life.

Day 4 READ

Word of God 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by[one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

¹⁵ Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don't need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don't need you!” ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

DAY 5

Word of God Acts 15:36-41

Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.”³⁷ Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, ³⁸ but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. ³⁹ They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹ He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Day 5 Discussion

Broken Fellowship - Can it be healed?

This is Paul’s second missionary journey, and he is now accompanied by Silas. It would have been a slightly uncomfortable situation for Mark and Silas after what had happened with Paul and Barnabas in Pamphylia. Paul chose Silas because Mark had left once before. Acts 13:13 reads, “Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John (Mark) left them and returned to Jerusalem,” and he did not want to risk that again. God blessed both journeys, regardless of who was on them. We may judge one another on our previous actions, but only God can truly change our hearts.

In our lives, we mess up. It takes a certain type of person to recognize that it’s okay to fail, but we must be willing to reconcile with ourselves, our family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and whomever we come in contact with. As Christians we can drown in the details. We can let our emotions, our wants, and our need for justice take hold of our lives. But Paul recognized that one act or mistake would not alter his relationship or need for Mark for the rest of his life. According to 2 Timothy 4:11, “ Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.” Broken relationships can be healed. Bad blood can be made pure again. Forgiveness is real, emotional, and incredibly raw, you just have to be eager for that closure and for that relationship to live again.



Application

Are there people in your life with whom you long for a fixed relationship? Assess where your heart sits, then assess where God’s heart sits; should you make that phone call? Should you forgive them for their wrongdoings? Make a list of whom you need to reach out to and do that this week.