

Week 2: Acts 4-5 Missing out on the Mission.

- God was having an incredible impact on the believers!
- The believers were having an incredible impact on the world around them!
- The apostles prayed for God to do a mighty work and it was happening!
- This is the situation that we all hope for and dream of...

Now **the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul**, and **no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own**, but they had **everything in common**. (v32)

There is a twofold effect of genuine belief in Christ:

- (1) The heart is _____ in relationship to things.
- (2) The heart is _____ in its relationship to people.

Example:

- (1) *Barnabas...sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. (4:36-37)*
- (2) *When [Saul] had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. **But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him... (9:26-27)***

Regardless of the success of the gospel at this point...some missed out on what was happening.

Despite the significant impact of the gospel... Ananias & Sapphira's hearts were **tightened towards things and loosened towards their relationship with others.**

They were willing to lie in order to **maintain a _____ on things.**
They were unwilling to repent in order to _____ **their relationship with the apostles and the other believers.**

#1 We must be very cautious when we see a love for things; property and possessions, _____ in our hearts. (See 1 Tim 6:9)

Practical Ideas:

#2 We must be very cautious when we see a love for people; believers and unbelievers alike, _____ in our hearts.

Practical Ideas:

#3 Deceiving ourselves, denying sin and refusing to repent...leads to _____. (See James 1:14-15)

Practical Ideas:

#4 When caught or confronted in an error, we must _____ it right away and _____. (See 1 John 1:8-10a)

Practical Ideas:

#5 There really is a way to _____ out on what God is wanting to do in the world. (See Matt 22:2-3, 5)

Practical Ideas:

#6 There is a way to _____ our stake in what God is wanting to do in the world. (See Mark 10:29-30)

Practical Ideas:

#7 In order to maximize our stake in what God is wanting to do in the world...we need to be more like Barnabas; whose heart was loosened towards things...and tightened towards people...for the mission of God.

Practical Ideas:

Follow Up Questions:

- What are your favorite 3-4 possessions that you own?
- Is there one that stands out above the rest? (*Ask spouse!*)
- Have you ever felt that your attachment to those things was 'too much'?
- Has the attachment ever caused you to lash out or withdraw from people?
- Have you ever felt 'owned' by the things that you own? (*Television, Phone, Internet, Car, House*)
- Is it easy or difficult for you to make time for other people, especially believers?
- Have you ever felt yourself wanting to spend more time with a possession/hobby vs. people?
- Have you ever considered comparing how much money you spend on cable, phone, hobby etc. vs how much you give to people/ministry?
- Do you think that you would be more happy or less happy if you downsized some things, and increased some people in your life?
- What is one simple step that you could take today to make a specific possession less controlling and a specific person more important?