



The *Sunday Recap* is a quick rundown of our time of worship together on Sunday and a quick look ahead. Our hope is that this will help us continue to reflect on the good news of the gospel all week long. Enjoy!

LENT COMMUNITY DEVOTIONAL

Here is a great Lent Community Devotional for you to consider and invite others to go through it with you: [Living Through Dying: 6-week Community Guide Through Lent](#)

Learning to live with “Gospel Intentionality”

A resource we have been going back to over and over to help us live ordinary lives with “gospel intentionality” and pursue those who don't yet know Christ together (and it's really SIMPLE which we like a lot) 😊 ---> [Simple Ways to Be Missional](#) by Verge Network

“ON MISSION TOGETHER” VIDEO:

Here is the video we showed during the announcements last Sunday:

<https://saturatetheworld.com/resource/church-is-more/on-mission-together/>

PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY -----

Sermon Scripture: Acts 6:1-7

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

READINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Lord God, we gather in this place not because we are deserving of your love and not because we have lived faithfully before your face. We gather here because you have called us.

C: You loved us before we could love you.

L: You have given your Son for our salvation. For this we join all creation in blessing you, praising you, thanking you.

C: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! You are great, and greatly to be praised.

L: As we offer our praise, we long for you to mold us in the image of your Son, whose death and resurrection give us hope.

C: Through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.

C: We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way.

L: We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained and great when we are small.

C: We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

- Psalm 103:8,10-12

PASSING OF THE PEACE

As recipients of God's peace, greet one another in the peace of Christ this morning and, as always, go out of your way to greet anyone who might be new to our family.

BENEDICTION

May Jesus our Savior, lead you and guide you.

May He love and minister to others through us

Go in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Peace be with you!

C: And Also with you!

SONGS

[All Creatures of our God and King](#) by All Sons and Daughters

[O Come to the Altar](#) by Elevation Church

[In the Hours](#) by Indelible Grace

[Alive in You](#) by Jesus Culture

REFLECT ON LAST SUNDAY -----

SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON

Acts 4:33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- In our *Assurance of Pardon* we read John 3:17- “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him” How does that change how you see Jesus? How does that change how you respond to knowledge of your sin or sinfulness?
- What is most interesting, surprising, or confusing to you about the account in Acts 4:32-5:11?
- How does the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ free us to be generous?
- What role does sacrifice (in giving, in time, in resources, in preferences, etc.) play in the mission of God to get the gospel to the ends of the earth?
- Think of times when you have been generous, what circumstances surrounded that? Why did you decide to be sacrificial? Think of times when you have not been generous, why did you resist (or neglect) being generous in that instance?

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM- Q & A 86

Q: *Since we have been delivered from our misery by grace through Christ without any merit of our own, why then should we do good works?*

A: Because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, is also restoring us by his Spirit into his image, so that with our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits ([Rom. 6:13](#); [12:1-2](#); [1 Pet. 2:5-10](#)), so that he may be praised through us ([Matt. 5:16](#); [1 Cor. 6:19-20](#)), so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits ([Matt. 5:16](#); [1 Cor. 6:19-20](#)), and so that by our godly living our neighbors may be won over to Christ ([Matt. 5:14-16](#); [Rom. 14:17-19](#); [1 Pet. 2:12](#); [3:1-2](#))

QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

NEW CITY CATECHISM

Question 6: How can we glorify God?

We glorify God by enjoying him, loving him, trusting him, and by obeying his will, commands, and law.

Discussion Questions:

- What do you remember from worship on Sunday? A song? A reading? Something Pastor Ryan said?
- How did Jesus love others?
- How do you think He wants to love others THROUGH you?
- Read the account of Ananias and Sapphira and ask your child(ren) why they think Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Apostles about how much they sold the land for?
 - Make sure not just to make this a story of morality with the children (ie- “They lied to God and we aren't supposed to lie to God are we??”) but rather show how the story is in contrast to the sacrificial giving on Barnabas and about how it shows any “doing to earn” or “giving to get” is not a heart shaped by the gospel. Giving from a place of trust in Jesus is beautiful and points us back to the gospel.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

Articles: [The Gospel For Relational Failure](#) by Jessica Thompson
[Sanctified by Faith](#) by Ryan Couch

[What Does It Mean to be a Gospel Centered Church?](#) By Ray Ortlund
[8 Observations About Sacrificial Giving](#) by JD Greer

Podcast: [Knowing The Love Of Christ](#) by The White Horse Inn

Book: [Putting Amazing Back Into Grace](#) by Michael Horton
[Gospel Centered Community](#) by Thune and Walker
[Gospel Centered Church](#) by Timmis and Chester

SONGS WE SANG *Check out our Spotify playlist here: <https://goo.gl/BQddvV>

[Oh You Bring](#) by Adie

[Desert Song](#) by Shane and Shane

[Oceans](#) by Rend Collective

[He Will Hold Me Fast](#) by Trinity Church

READINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Let us worship God, who has done great things.

C: We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world.

L: Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

C: We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice!

L: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

C: We praise God for the grace that has saved us. Alleluia! We rejoice!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. — 1 John 1:8-9

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." **John 3:16-17**

L: Hear this good news- All your sins are washed away. You are forgiven!

C: Hallelujah! What we couldn't do for ourselves, God did for us. We are forgiven of all our sin and loved as if we were perfect, just like Jesus.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Around here we like to say "Who we are informs HOW we live". And who we are is a people who have received peace with God because of what Jesus did on our behalf. With that very peace, take a moment to greet one another as family here this morning.

BENEDICTION

L: May the God of love, who shared his love, strengthen us in our love for others.

May the Son who shared his life

grant us grace, that we might share our life.

And may the Holy Spirit dwelling in us

empower us to be only and always for others.

Go from here determined to live for others, and remember God is forever with you.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Peace be with you!

C: And also with you!

SERMON REVIEW

Sermon Title: The Word and The Spirit

Sermon Text: Acts 4:32-5:11

Watch it again here: <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/the-word-and-the-spirit/>

Sermon Overview:

When we begin reading Acts 4:32-5:11, we might have the feeling like we have already read these verses. The reason is of course, that it sounds an awful lot like Acts 2:42-47. “Why would Luke write again of a similar account??” you might ask (and rightfully so), well Luke is describing the SIGNS of this new Spirit-filled community. So the reason he shares another account of unity and sacrificial giving is because he wants us to see that this is a reoccurring way of life in this new community. Luke also wants us to listen with Old Testament ears and remember God’s requirement for His community to be marked with this type of sacrificial generosity (see Deuteronomy 15:7-8,10). This new community was proving to be the community God always had planned. Israel never fully became this type of community, but Jesus living in and through these people in Acts 4 is the sacrificial community.

Sermon Summary: The Gospel Word and the Gospel Life cannot be separated

The sign of this communities unity and sacrificial generosity is telling us something about Jesus- that He is indeed alive and living through these people. Never before in history have we seen this type of sacrificial living and care for others (other than in the person of Jesus, of course), and now it is coming about NOT because these people are special or extra dedicated, but because they have Jesus living in them by the presence of His Spirit.

It's a helpful exercise for us to ask the question- “What made these people live like this?” At first we may think it was because they were *instructed* to. Perhaps Peter and John got them all together and said- “Look guys, if we are going to start this new movement called Christianity we need to be generous, so everyone has to sell everything and give us the money from it.” Well, we don't have any instruction like that recorded here. There is a principle here that is worth noting, that of the way the fruit of the Spirit comes about. Does love, obedience, and sacrificial living come about from mere instruction or demand? Well, give it a shot and see how it works. Start with a telling a two year old they are required to share their toys and see how that goes for you. Or for us, just review the Ten Commandments and then go ahead and live up to them in their entirety (don't forget to go over to Matthew 5 for Jesus’ interpretation of the laws either!). What we find is that the command to live a certain way doesn't create what it demands.

Paul describes this well in **Romans 8:3–4**, “For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do” and **Galatians 3:21–22**, “For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law.” In other words, the commands of God in sinful humanity do not create righteousness. This is why remembering what happened in Acts 2, the descent of the Spirit, is so important! Again, it is only by the *presence* of the Holy Spirit that sinful humanity bears beautiful Jesus-like fruit (such as sacrifice).

Not only is there a *presence* that enables this type of living, but there is also a *power* that comes from the Apostles teaching on the resurrection. Acts 4:33- “And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.” The “grace” that is upon them might also be called *freedom*. There is a freedom that comes from understanding that Jesus is alive and reigning. A freedom that can cause us to relinquish hold of our stuff and know that true life is actually a post-death experience. True life is not experienced in the here and now, but it's the life we were always made for, with God and with one another. The life that Jesus ushered in through His resurrection and that is also ours by faith! That sort of teaching could clearly have an affect on how we view a piece of land that we were holding on to in order to cash in and live the “good life”.

Luke gives us a stark contrast to that sort of *free living* in the account of Ananias and Sapphira. Here we have a couple who is giving, just like Barnabas did, but they aren't giving out of a *freedom*, they are giving out of a *need*. Instead of giving the full amount from the sale of the land, they hold back part of it but lie and say it's the full amount. Peter’s response is telling. He doesn't say “You know you are required to give the church all the money from that land!” Instead he says, “It was your land to do what you wanted with it, and when you sold it, it was your money to do what you

wanted with it. Why would you lie about how much you gave?" Peter is telling them that they are free to give whatever they desire. The only reason they would lie about the amount is because they think being accepted (by God and this community) God is by the *doing of good deeds*. But that is completely against the grain of the message of the Apostles, which from the beginning has been- Jesus is the Messiah, salvation is in NO OTHER NAME. Now Ananias and Sapphira are preaching a different message- "Salvation and entrance into God's community is through doing things that look good." You can see how this would enrage God and the Apostles. So much so that Ananias and Sapphira drop dead.

A preacher named Charles Spurgeon gave a great illustration that fits here called "The King and The Carrot"

- Once upon a time there was a gardener who grew an enormous carrot. So he took it to his king and said, "My Lord, this is the greatest carrot I've ever grown or ever will grow. Therefore I want to present it to you as a token of my love and respect for you." The king was touched and discerned the man's heart, so as [the gardener] turned to go the king said, "Wait! You are clearly a good steward of the earth. I own a plot of land right next to yours. I want to give it to you freely as a gift so you can garden it all." And the gardener was amazed and delighted and went home rejoicing. But there was a nobleman at the king's court who overheard all this. And he said, "My! If that is what you get for a *carrot* — what if you gave the king something better?" So the next day the nobleman came before the king and he was leading a handsome black stallion. He bowed low and said, "My lord, I breed horses and this is the greatest horse I have ever bred or ever will. Therefore I want to present it to you as a token of my love and respect for you." But the king discerned his heart and said thank you, and took the horse and merely dismissed him. The nobleman was perplexed. So the king said, "Let me explain. That gardener was giving *me* the carrot, but you were giving *yourself* the horse."

Connecting it back to our text, Barnabas gave to the community (and to God), Ananias and Sapphira gave to themselves.

This message of the gospel is pure and unable to be added to- there is salvation in no other name, but Jesus! And as the church begins God will go to any lengths to protect that message. He is so committed to the mission of getting the gospel to the ends of the earth, that two people who want to make it about themselves will not stand in His way. Even in the midst of this tragic scene in Acts 4, we see what we've seen throughout the book of Acts- THE GOSPEL PREVAILS!