

Acts 4:32-5:11

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 12-14-16

Context

- I. Introduction
 - A. Introduction to Luke (Luke 1:1-4)
 - B. Introduction to Acts (Acts 1:1-5)
- II. In Jerusalem (1:6-6:7)
 - A. Waiting for Pentecost (1:6-26)
 - B. The Day of Pentecost (2:1-47)
 - C. The outbreak of persecution (3:1-4:31)
 - D. Satanic counter-attack (4:32-6:7)**

Satanic Counter-attack (4:32-6:7) - Introduction

On 3 fronts:

- _____ - persecution, jail time, threats and intimidation.
 - 5:33 - they "intended to kill them"
- Moral _____ and _____ - Ananias and Sapphira in ch. 5
- _____ - Deflecting the apostles from their primary apostolic ministry in ch. 6

The Common Life of the Believers (4:32-35)

V. 31 - HS → then they "began to speak the word of God with boldness."

- NASB section break before v. 32?
- V. 33a - one of their primary apostolic responsibilities (cf. 1:22)

V. 32 - The fullness of the Spirit manifests itself in _____ as well as _____

- Witness + service. Testimony without + love within.
- 1st coming of the HS → the Spirit-filled community (2:42-47) - Learning, loving, worshipping, evangelizing, "one mind" (v. 46)
- 2nd coming of the HS → the Spirit-filled community (4:32-37) - "of one heart and soul" - solidarity of love, unity of purpose, generous in sharing
- Ministry outward to the world + body of Christ to one another

3 consequences:

- Radical _____ (toward their possessions) - 2:44, 4:32b
 - πάντα κοινά (*panta koina*) - "all things in common"
 - "no one claimed" ownership
- _____ action - 2:45, 4:34b-35
 - As needs arose
 - Voluntary and sporadic vs. compulsory and systematic
- Principled _____ of relief - 2:45, 4:35b
 - Distribution was proportionate to genuine need
- Consequence: v. 34a - "there was not a needy person among them"
 - NOT public ownership, equality of income
 - IS genuine needs being met, picture of _____

John Wesley in *Explanatory Notes* highlights:

- “filled with the Spirit” (v. 31) + “abundant grace [being] upon them all” = being “of one heart and soul” and having “all things in common”
- Simply the natural outflow of a heart filled with the life of God, transformed by grace.

2 Contrasting Examples: Barnabas vs. Ananias/Sapphira (4:35-5:11)

Barnabas = the _____ of how the Christian fellowship would operate

Ananias and Sapphira = the _____ of it

- Importance:
 - _____ of Luke the historian
 - Sheds light on the _____ of the Spirit-filled community
 - Another example of the strategy of _____
 - Parallels with _____ (Josh. 7)
 - Both occur in the early formational stages of the life of God’s people
 - F.F. Bruce: “The story of Ananias is to the book of Acts what the story of Achan is to the book of Joshua. In both narratives an act of deceit interrupts the victorious progress of the people of God.”
- The problem:
 - Underlying _____
 - V. νοσφίζασθαι (*nosphizazthai*) = “misappropriate”
 - Same used in LXX for Achan
 - Means to steal
 - Embezzlement & hypocrisy
 - Not that they lacked generosity, but _____
 - Wanted the credit and prestige for sacrificial generosity, without the inconvenience of it
- 3 valuable lessons
 - The _____ of their sin - (v. 3 - “lie to the Holy Spirit,” v. 4 - “to God”, v. 9 - “put the Spirit of the Lord to the test”)
 - God _____ hypocrisy (cf. Luke 6:42; 12:1+10!, 56; 13:15)
 - Their sin was also against the _____ - *ekklesia* in v. 11
 - The importance of the human _____ (cf. Acts 24:16; I John 1:7)
 - The necessity of church _____
 - Not only is a person’s soul at stake, but the life of a church is at stake
 - General rule
 - Private sins dealt with privately
 - Public sins dealt with publicly
 - Follow Jesus’ stages in Matthew 18