

SERMON **Acts 4:32-5:11** When Selfishness Comes to Church. 3-7-2021

→ God's people are called to and accountable for integrity before the Lord in our mutual care and mission.

1. What happens when love for Jesus comes to church? 2. What happens when love for self comes to church?

Point 1- When love comes to church **v32-37**

Barnabas 11:21-24

Point 2- When Selfishness Comes to Church **v 34-37**

Luke 12:15, 12:33

Why do we drift- ?

1st We're not satisfied with Christ.

2rd The bible tells us these things come from within- (Mark 7:14-23)

"From out of the heart comes envy, deceit and pride."

(For more on this -Message : Mark 7:1-23 From the Inside Out / TN/ RGC website.)

3rd We cannot dismiss we have an adversary that wants to destroy us- Satan wants to propel our cravings into idols.

Mk 1:11 This is my son in whom I am well pleased.

2 Cor 12:6 Paul - "I don't want anyone to think more of me than he actually sees in me."

Application. and Discussion

1. What contrast is Luke showing us- 4:32-37 vs 5:1-11 ?
2. How do you think the gospel promoted such love and selflessness to the mission and mutual care?
3. What are some ways selfishness can come into the church through you?
4. What ultimately were Ananias and Saphira craving?
 - a. talk about the root of this from Mark 7:14-23
5. Are there places where you are more controlled by your desires for your reputation, or for comfort and ease, or a mindset "I'll let someone else volunteer" than you are captured by the mission of Jesus Christ?
6. Contrast and compare these 2 questions: "How can this church serve me?" and "How can I serve this church?"
7. How does the gospel give us strength, hope and encouragement in this battle of integrity?

Parents

This is great passage to talk about honesty and the fact that God sees and knows everything.

Walk through what Ananias and Saphira did –

1. How were they dishonest to Peter?
2. How were they dishonest to God?
3. Why did they lie?
4. Read and talk about Mark 7:14-23 – deceit and dishonesty comes from the heart – no one makes you be dishonest.
5. How can God forgive us when we're dishonest (1 John 1:8-9)?

Here are some other passages about honesty:

Warning & Wisdom::

Proverbs 12:22 Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his delight

Proverbs 21:6 The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a snare of death.

Ephesians 4:25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

Psalms 34:12-14 What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? ¹³ Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. ¹⁴ Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

1 Peter 2:1 So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

1 Peter 3:10 For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.

Promise:

Psalms 84:11 ¹¹ For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly

Isaiah 26:3-4 ³ You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. ⁴ Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.