

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **November 17, 2019** sermon, "Being Real." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 4:32-5:11) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS OPPOSITION TO GOD'S WORK INTENSIFIES, NOTE . . .

1. The mutual care God's people are called to provide (4:32-37)
 - a. Believers provided generous care for one another.
 - i. They view themselves as managers of that which belongs to the LORD.
 - ii. Within the people of God there is love, grace, caring, sharing, and giving.
 - b. The result of generous care for one another is . . .
 - i. Mega-power. The testimony about Jesus' resurrection was influential.
 - ii. Mega-grace. The grace of God's presence was upon them all.
 - c. Note that even transplants (Barnabas was from Cypress, newer to Jerusalem) had a selfless attitude for the purpose of caring for fellow believers.
2. The personal integrity God's people are called to maintain (5:1-11)
 - a. The previous attack had come from the outside (civil authorities threaten and arrest)
 - b. But this attack on God's work is coming from within (deceivers on the inside)
 - i. The evil one attempts to get a foothold in order to produce a stronghold.
 - ii. The mega-power and mega-grace was impacted by the selfless hearts.
 - iii. God produces drastic consequences for Ananias and Sapphira.
 - iv. And there is now Mega-fear on the whole church and those who heard.
 - c. God will build his church with mega-power and mega-grace, and neither external nor external forces will ultimately frustrate his work. Jesus Christ will be praised!

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The people of God are called to good to all people, but especially to the household of faith (Galatians 6:10). How can you improve at generously providing help and using God's resources (time, treasure, talents), entrusted to you, to serve fellow believers?
2. Based on #1, above: When believers took care of one another, mega power flowed (for powerful witnessing about Jesus' resurrection) and mega grace flowed (for protection and righteous living). This is a description of what took place, and not a "promise" for us today. Nevertheless, we can learn important lessons from these early believers. Do you believe that the world around us perceives giving, sharing, loving and grace within the church?
3. Based on #2, above: The evil one has an external strategy to oppose the advancement of God's kingdom (in chapters 3-4) in which civil authorities try to limit believers through threats and restrictions on speech. But here, the evil one turns to internal strategy in which he produces confusion, disillusionment and distrust through disobedient believers. In what way have you been discouraged by disobedient Christians? In what way has your disobedience been a source of discouragement for other believers? Is there any area of intentional deceit in your life?
4. Based on #2, above: Though there exist both external and internal strategies to limit the advancement of God's kingdom, he will build his church. The name of Jesus Christ will be praised. Reflect upon God's grace to refine us, and discuss it.