

Great Power, Great Grace, Great Fear!

Acts 4:32 – 5:11

March 31, 2019

BIG IDEA—The early church was a messy gathering, much like we are, but they had three things going for them: great power, grace, fear.

1. Summary statement about the early church (4:32-35)
 - a. Who they are (**one** heart and soul)
 - b. Whatever they own (“If I have it and you need it, it’s yours.”)
 - *everything in common* = fellowship (also Acts 2:44)
 - c. No one was needy (Deut. 15:4-5, 10-11)
 - d. Two **great** characteristics: power and grace
 - **power** for apostolic witness **of** Jesus’ resurrection (Acts 1:22; 2:32; 3:15)
 - **grace** for **all** to live generously (Gal. 2:10; 6:10)
2. Positive example, Barnabas (4:36-37) **23** times in Acts
Bar-nabas = Son of Encouragement, his prophetic **gift** (see 1 Corinthians 14:3)
 - **embraces** Saul when others are suspicious (9:26-27)
 - recruits Saul to work **with** him in Antioch (11:22-26)
 - delivers **aid** with Saul to Jerusalem (11:29-30; 12:25)
 - serves alongside Paul on **mission** trips (Acts 13-14)
 - testifies re God’s work among **Gentiles** (Acts 15)
3. Negative example, Ananias and Sapphira (5:1-11)
 - a. Ungodly **unity** can exist between husband and wife
 - b. Satan’s strategically seeks to **control** people
 - c. Pretending to serve Christ yet glorifying self is a stupid attempt to deceive the Holy Spirit and fool God’s people
 - d. Their money was theirs to use for anything except lying
 - e. A chance to **repent** must be taken when offered
 - f. Great **fear** results when God judges **hypocrites**

Life Group Homework

1. READ Acts 4:32-35. Could this be a description of our church? Should we strive for this or was it a unique historical situation, not for today?
2. READ Deuteronomy 15:1-11. Summarize this teaching about how Israel was to treat the poor among them.
3. Very infrequently, but occasionally, God immediately and severely judges sin. Fill in the names of those judged.

Leviticus 10:1-2	_____
Joshua 7:24-26	_____
2 Samuel 6:6-7	_____
Acts 12:21-23	_____
4. Whom did God strike dead for your sin? Support w/Scripture
Romans 4:25; 2 Cor. 5:15; 1 Peter 2:24; _____
5. READ John 13:34-35. Discuss the question below. How can you personally do this? with a friend? or, as a LifeGroup?

“Have you ever even considered loving a fellow Christian as sacrificially and selflessly as Christ loved you?” Francis Chan