

SPREAD THE WORD

A SERIES IN ACTS

Get Real

Acts 4:32 – 5:11

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 bethel *community*
CHURCH

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Acts 4:32 – 5:11 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. 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. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. -

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35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. 36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, 37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. 5:1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 2 and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. -

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3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.” 5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. -

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6 The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him. 7 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter said to her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much.” And she said, “Yes, for so much.” 9 But Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.”-

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10 Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. **11** And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things. (ESV)

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I. We need to get real... By being the church.

A. Demonstrating real spiritual unity.

32 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul,

- *1 Corinthians 12:25-26 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.*

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I. We need to get real... By being the church.

B. Demonstrating real open-handedness.

32 ...and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.

- *Ephesians 4:28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.*

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I. We need to get real... By being the church.

C. Demonstrating real power in preaching.

33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus,

- *1 Corinthians 1:23-24 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

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I. We need to get real... By being the church.

C. Demonstrating real power in preaching.

- *Hebrews 4:12-13 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

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I. We need to get real... By being the church.

D. Demonstrating real graciousness.

33 ...And great grace was upon them all.

- Ephesians 2:4-8 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming -*

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I. We need to get real... By being the church.

D. Demonstrating real graciousness.

33 ...And great grace was upon them all.

- ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

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I. We need to get real... By being the church.

D. Demonstrating real graciousness.

33 ...And great grace was upon them all.

- *Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

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I. We need to get real... By being the church.

E. Demonstrating real generosity.

34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 And laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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II. We need to get real... By encouraging each other.

36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, 37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

- A. With right hearts and attitudes.
- B. With empowering words.
- C. With inspiring actions.

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III. We need to get real... By not holding back:

A. Our treasures.

5:1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 2 and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.

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III. We need to get real... By not holding back:

A. Our treasures.

- *Malachi 3:10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.*

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III. We need to get real... By not holding back:

B. Our integrity.

3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.”

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III. We need to get real... By not holding back:

B. Our integrity.

- *Proverbs 12:22 Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight.*

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III. We need to get real... By not holding back:

C. Our lives.

5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. 6 The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

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III. We need to get real... By not holding back:

C. Our lives.

- *I Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

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III. We need to get real... By not holding back:

D. Our Family.

7 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." 9 But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." -

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III. We need to get real... By not holding back:

D. Our Family.

10 Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

11 And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

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We need to get real by actually being the church. Demonstrating real spiritual unity, real open-handedness, real power in preaching, real graciousness, and real generosity. We need to get real in how we encourage each other with right hearts and attitudes, empowering words, and inspiring actions. With God's help we need to get real by not holding anything back including our treasures, our integrity, our lives, and our families.

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