



Homegroup Sermon Questions Sunday 19th Sept 2021

Unstoppable – Hold nothing back. Acts 4:32 – 5:11

Context:

From Acts 1 (Jesus' commission of the disciples to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth; and his ascension), to Acts 2 (Pentecost – the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower Jesus' followers in this mission), we then get Acts 3 (miraculous healing and bold proclamation of the message of Jesus) and Acts 4 (Persecution for preaching Jesus) and Prayer (God stretch out your hand!). This section of Acts 4–5 begins to focus in on this new community of believers. They have received the Holy Spirit, what will their life together be like? What does the spirit filled community really look like?

4:32 – 37 (see also Acts 2:42–47)

What seem to be the key characteristics of this new spirit filled community?

[Here are some suggestions:

- United (2:44; 4:32)
- Radical attitude to stuff (2:44–45; 4:32)
- Sacrificial (4:34–35)
- Centred around Apostles' Teaching/Scripture and breaking bread/communion (2:42)
- Holy Spirit manifestly at work amongst them (2:43)
- Growth was obvious (2:47)]

Does anything surprise you in that list? Why?

Which characteristic is most different to the contemporary church? What can we learn and how might this challenge us?

Which of these characteristics do we as a church focus more on? Where do we need to grow in the Spirit's work amongst us?

5:1–11

Discuss your honest reactions to this story. [You might find it helpful to compare it to another shocking story in Joshua 7; the sin of Achan] What did you find hard about it?

What seems to be the most important thing that Ananias and Sapphira have got wrong?

Why is hypocrisy seen here as Satanic (5:3)?

How does God's opposition to religious hypocrisy both encourage and challenge us today?
How might this help us as we talk to friends who are often put off by examples of hypocrisy amongst Christians?

How can we root out hypocrisy in our own lives and in the life of our church?

You might find it helpful to lead into a time of prayer by meditating on Philippians 2:5-11.

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