



One Heart—One Beat

Introduction: A spirit of generous giving and gospel preaching flooded the early church. The church willingly gave of their resources for the good of their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. The apostles were continually giving testimony to the resurrection of Jesus! Great grace was upon them. There was unity, and the church was beating as one heart. Satan tempted a married couple and threatened the unity and spirit of generosity in the church. The Lord brought judgment upon them and the fear of the Lord strengthened the church.

Text: Acts 4:32-5:11

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: Share of an experience when the Lord has laid it on your heart to give a generous gift to someone. How did that make you feel and what did that do for the person or the people you blessed?
2. What does it mean to be of one heart and one soul?
3. What is the power of unity in the church, home, school, team, business?
4. Read Ezekiel 11:19-20 How does this fit into what the church is experiencing?
5. Acts 4:32-37 we see a spirit of generosity. Why were the people so generous?
6. Why is this not socialism?
7. The church sets the example of what a true loving and faithful community should look like. What is the picture you see in this church body?
8. Read Psalm 133 and how does this relate to the community of faith in Acts?
9. What were the apostles committed to proclaiming? Why must this never change?
10. What blessing did the church body experience? (Acts 4:33)
11. What is the difference between Barnabas and Ananias and Sapphira?
12. Peter recognizes that Ananias was following Satan. What temptation did Satan use with them? How does he still tempt us in the same way?
13. Who did Ananias and Sapphira lie to? Why is this such a great sin?
14. When have you ever tried to hide a sin or lie about a sin?
15. How should Ananias and Sapphira responded when confronted?
16. How should we respond to our sin?

Think About it:

The church is living out the faith. They are preaching teaching, and living the gospel of Christ. They were together and had one focus: love God—love others. The church was so moved with compassion that they gave generously for the good of the body. They were experiencing God's great grace and power. The enemy always tries to hinder the work of God. Satan tempted a couple with greed with led to lying to God. There was an assault on the unity and generosity of the believing community. We must always be on guard for the temptations that Satan places before us. If he can get us off focus and cause us to turn on our church family then he can create disaster. Do not allow the enemy to lead you astray.

Moving Forward:

Are you a generous giver? Do you willingly and lovingly bless the church and the church body? Evaluate your heart on giving this week. Do you gladly bring your tithes and offerings? Are you committed to sharing the good news of Jesus? Live this week with this aim: Lord help me to make every decision, conversation, and opportunity to bring glory and honor to your name!