
[SERMON NOTES]

Acts – Week 5 (*Acts 5:1-11, 25-29; 1 Samuel 16:7; Proverbs 1:7; Galatians 2:20-21; Philippians 2:3-4; Romans 12:1-2*)

What separates counterfeit and real disciples is not what's _____,
but what's going on _____.

Sin is a _____.

_____ Christians get nothing past _____.

Is your faith _____ or _____ - _____?

F – _____ God, not _____.

I – Inflate _____, not your _____.

T – Transform your _____ with the _____ of God.

[QUICK REVIEW]

Looking at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

[MY STORY]

We've all had moments in our lives where we want others to think more highly of us. There's just something in us that wants to be seen, to look good, and for others to acknowledge us. **Tell a funny or serious story of a time when you wanted others to see you as better than you are and what the outcome ended up being.**

[DIGGING DEEPER]

This week in Acts 5 we learned about the sin and failure of Ananias and Sapphira. They tried to pull a fast one on God and get the same kind of honor that Joseph (Barnabas) was bestowed. However, their desire to be seen as great in the newly formed community of Christ was brought abruptly to an end. **Read Philippians 2:1-11. What are the primary ways we are called to relate to ourselves and others as followers of Jesus?**

The antidote for the sin and disobedience of Ananias and Sapphira is the virtue of *humility*. This was not a virtue in the ancient world until Jesus and the first Christians embodied it and it became one of the primary ones. **We are called to walk the road of humility. Read Luke 18:9-14. Contrast the primary characteristics of the two characters in this parable.**

One of the most compelling quotes about humility is that, “*Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.*”¹ This was the downfall of Ananias and Sapphira. They were thinking too much about themselves, giving into their selfish desires to be known as generous and powerful in the Christian community, instead of thinking about the needs of others and about the will of God. They pridefully decided to puff their own image up instead of glorifying God. This temptation is on one side of the road of humility and is called the “**ditch of bigness.**” It is thinking of ourselves as more important than we are. ***What are the situations, circumstances, or relationships in which you are most tempted to think more highly of yourself than you should? What are some of the circumstances where you want others to think highly of you?***

There is another ditch on the other side of the road of humility that is the “**ditch of smallness**” which is the temptation to think too lowly of ourselves. It is another form of pride that takes the form of false-humility. Instead of agreeing with God who thought we were worth dying for, we give into this temptation that leads to low self-esteem, a lack of confidence, and even self-loathing. ***What are some of the ways in which you are tempted to think too lowly of yourself?***

Read 1 John 3:1-2 and Colossians 3:1-4. Instead of thinking too highly or lowly of ourselves, how does God see us?

True humility is setting aside our own view of ourselves—letting go of our pursuits for power and prestige and image—and instead agreeing with God about who he says we are and having confidence in our identity in Him. ***In what ways can you in humility agree with God about who you are? How then might this change the way you live?***

[WEEKLY READINGS]

Studies say that someone who reads their Bible 4 times or more a week improves their joy, happiness, contentment, and overall approval of their life. (*1 Tim. 4:8-10,16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17*). As a church, we believe that! Below are 4 passages of Scripture this week to dive into to pull deeper on our weekend’s message. We encourage you to take notes in your Bible, and ask yourself: *What does this teach me about God? Myself and others? And how do I follow Jesus better?*

Acts 5

Joshua 7

James 4

Romans 12

¹ This quote is usually attributed to C.S. Lewis but actually originates in *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren. Lewis has a much longer, even better quote in Book 3, Chapter 8 of *Mere Christianity*.