

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY

ACTS: CHURCH 101

ACTS 5:12-42

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021

AN APPARENT DEBACLE: A Review

Acts 5:1 *Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property.* ² *With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.* ³ *Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"* ⁴ *Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."* ⁵ *When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened.* ⁶ *Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.* ⁷ *About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.* ⁸ *Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"* *"Yes," she said, "that is the price."* ⁹ *Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."* ¹⁰ *At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband.* ¹¹ *Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.*

Two Pictures of the Church:

The first is the church alone in fellowship.

The second is the church as it exists in its relationship to the community around it and eventually the world.

WHEN WE ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITY

Acts 5:11 *Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.* ¹² *The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.*

1. God will continue to DEMONSTRATE His power while we are picking up the pieces.

Acts 5:13 *No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people.* ¹⁴ *Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.* ¹⁵ *As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by.* ¹⁶ *Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.*

Acts 5:17 *Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy.* ¹⁸ *They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.*

2. Expect some to RESIST in spite of what has happened.

Acts 5:19 *But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out.* ²⁰ "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life." ²¹ At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.

Acts 5:21 *When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin - the full assembly of the elders of Israel - and sent to the jail for the apostles.* ²² But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported...

3. Even in the midst of resistance, God MAKES a way.

Acts 5:23 *"We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside."* ²⁴ On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were puzzled, wondering what would come of this.

John 5:17 (NIV) *Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I, too, am working."*

Acts 5:25 *Then someone came and said, "Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people."* ²⁶ At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

Acts 5:27 *Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest.* ²⁸ "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood."

4. We need to force ourselves to stay on TOPIC.

Acts 5:29 *Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"* ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead - whom you had killed by hanging Him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted Him to His own right hand as Prince and Savior that He might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. ³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

Again, the apostles stayed focused on three truths that keeping coming up in these early sermons:

- You killed Jesus, but God raised Him up. You rejected Him, but God vindicated Him.
- God exalted Him to a place where He could give repentance and forgiveness to Israel.
- God gave the Holy Spirit to His obedient people.

5. Expect one of three possible responses as you continue to engage your community

HOSTILITY – Acts 5:33 *When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.*

INDIFFERENCE - Acts 5:34 *But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while.* ³⁵ *Then he addressed them: "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men.* ³⁶ *Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing.* ³⁷ *After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered.* ³⁸ *Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail.* ³⁹ *But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."*

OPPORTUNITY – Acts 5:40 *His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them **flogged**. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.*

1 Peter 4:12 (NIV) *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.* ¹³ *But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed.* ¹⁴ *If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.* ¹⁵ *If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.* ¹⁶ *However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.* ¹⁷ *For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?* ¹⁸ *And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"* ¹⁹ *So then, those who suffer according to God's will **should commit themselves** to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.*

Acts 5:41 *The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.* ⁴² *Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.*

WHAT ABOUT US? The Strategic Planning Team

"What is the purpose of Hydesville Community Church?"

Romans 15:5 (ESV) *May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus,* ⁶ *that together you may with one voice **glorify** the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 6:20 (ESV) *... for you were bought with a price. So **glorify** God in your body.*

1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV) *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the **glory** of God.* ³² *Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God,* ³³ *just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.*

What is the "glory of God?"

Exodus 33:12 (ESV) *Moses said to the LORD (Yahweh), "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people,' but You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.'* ¹³ *Now therefore, if I have found favor in Your sight, please show me now Your ways, that I may know You in order to find favor in Your sight. Consider too that this nation is Your people."*

¹⁴ *And He (Yahweh) said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”*

¹⁵ *And he (Moses) said to Him, “If Your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. ¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favor in Your sight, I and Your people? Is it not in Your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and Your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?”*

¹⁷ *And the LORD said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.”*

¹⁸ ***Moses said, “Please show me Your glory.”***

¹⁹ *And He (Yahweh) said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD (YAHWEH).’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.*

The “*glory of God*” is His character, attributes, reputation, name and works. This is what He showed to Moses.

So, what does it mean to “glorify God?”

We glorify God when we show or magnify or live out His character, attributes, reputation, name and works.

The mission of Hydesville Community Church is to glorify God by...