

Study notes based on Acts 4:32-5:11 Sharing and Holding Back 23 July 2017

1. Sometimes we idealise the early church, regarding it as a model to aspire to. How do we respond when we see that things went so wrong so early on?
2. What do you think motivated Ananias and Sapphira to lie about their giving?
3. Peter indicated that it would have been alright if they had kept back some of the money. How do we respond to Graeme's hint that rank and file Christians were developing a different church culture from the leaders?
4. What about today? Do we experience a pressure to appear more spiritual than we actually are? What would fuel such pressure?
5. React to these words of a sixties gospel song 'Life is wonderful, yes it's wonderful, life is wonderful now to me, since my Saviour came, I can't be the same, life is wonderful now.' Are these words misleading in any way? Can you think of other words we sing which maybe overstate our situation as Christians?
6. See 1 Corinthians 1:26-29. Do we sometimes assume that other Christians are more holy, worthy, spiritual, connected to God than we are? Do we think spiritual work is only for the clever, talented, wealthy enough etc?
7. Graeme suggested that despite Christians being impressed by big speakers, big events etc most people come to Christ through multiple contacts with 'small people'. What do you think?
8. How do you respond to Graeme's observation that following heroes diminishes other ministries?
9. Graeme suggested that Satan's task is to disable the church. In what ways does he do this? What is our defence?

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