

Acts 4:32-6:7 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Based on Acts 5:12-16 what were the apostles doing (v12, 15-16) and what were the effects (v12, 13, 14, 16)? What does this teach us about properly relating to God's grace?

5. In 5:17-24 what was the reaction of the Jewish leaders to the apostles (v17, 18) and how did God respond (v19-20)? What did the leaders discover (v21-23) and how did this affect them (v24)?

6. According to 5:25-28 what was reported to the leaders (v25) and what did they do (v26)? Of what did the High Priest accuse them (v27-28) and was he right or wrong?

7. Read 5:29-32. What was the apostles' response (v29)? What was the line of reasoning they used to justify their disobedience to the leaders (v30-31, 32)? Apply.

8. Using 5:33-42 how were the leaders affected (v33), what was Gamaliel's advice (v34-35, 38-39), and his examples (v36, 37)? What did they do (v40) and what resulted (v41, 42)?

9. From 6:1-6 what problem arose (v1), how was it handled (v2, 3, 5-6), and what were the qualifications of the "deacons" (v5, 6)? What did the apostles do and why (v2, 4)?

10. In 6:7 what significant trend is pointed out and why do you think it is described that way? What 2 things demonstrated this?

11. Summarize the way that some related to the grace in the early fellowship, pro and con; the way some reacted against this grace, and the practical way that the apostles reflected this grace in the fellowship.

Scripture to Remember

"...if this plan or action should be of men, it will be overthrown; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God."

Acts 5:39-40 (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

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Life Group Questions—Absolute Surrender (Genesis 22:1-18)

(Using questions from Sunday's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Think about the word "surrender". What thoughts or feelings come to mind? What position does a person have to be in to surrender to someone or something?
2. Read Gen 22:1-2. What did God instruct Abraham to do (v2) and why (v1)? Why would "willingness" be the first requirement for Abraham to successfully surrender?
3. Discuss why our "agenda" is the major roadblock to willingness. How does this typically work in your life?
4. Talk about how Abraham prepared (v3-8) to obey God's command for surrender. Why is preparation necessary for this process? What are some examples of things that might require surrender on our part and what are some ways we can prepare?
5. Define "sacrifice". Why does it require valuable things to truly be a sacrifice and why does it show that we "mean business"? Why did Abraham do it and why should we?
6. What does it mean to you that "where there is a sacrifice there is always provision" when it comes to sacrificing for God? Is there anything you need to surrender now?
7. Share about anything else meaningful from the message if you have time.



MANIFEST DESTINY

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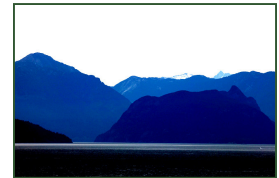
The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Talk Is Cheap! Acts 4:32-6:7

We can all relate to the saying “talk is cheap”. It costs little to promise, but a great deal more when we have to fulfill it. In this week’s study the early church experiences God’s grace and some utilize this to show even more grace, while others abuse, or even resist it. The story begins by showing two ways of relating to grace. The text says that abundant grace was upon them all and the proper response to that grace was to actively share one’s possessions if a need arose. Actions, and not image-management or words, are the proper response to God’s grace. Barnabas did this; he sold some land and allowed the apostles to distribute it to those who had need. In contrast, Ananias and Sapphira pretended to give all their proceeds, but held some back.

This amounted to lying to the Holy Spirit and God took their lives for this hypocrisy, causing healthy fear of God to come on the early church. Later, as the apostles performed miracles which benefited many it showed that the presence of God was clearly with them. As a result they, too, were held in respectful esteem, with only a few daring to associate with them. The next section depicts the Jewish leaders reacting against God’s grace with persecution. Being jealous of the apostles’ acclaim they threw them in jail, but an angel of the Lord released them and they continued to preach. So, they brought them back in and commanded them to stop again, accusing them of trying to bring the guilt of Jesus’ death upon them. They didn’t deny this, but told them that



The manifest destiny of disciples is to recapture the world for Jesus.

they had to obey God rather than men, causing the leaders to want to kill them. Gamaliel advised them to refrain, though, saying that if this was not of God it would cease on its own. So, they had them flogged, but they left rejoicing because they had suffered for Jesus. Finally, in 6:1-7 a problem arose in the church about Hellenistic widows being overlooked in the daily serving of food. In this the apostles responded in grace practically by telling them to select seven men to oversee a fair distribution, allowing them to continue their work and leading to the growth of the church.

Study Questions for Acts 4:32-6:7

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study%20questions))

<p>1. Read Acts 4:32-37. Describe the new group of believers (v32, 33) and the apostles (v33). How were they treating one other (v34) and what was the process (v35)? Describe one who did this (v36-37)?</p>	
<p>2. From 5:1-6 who contrasted with Barnabas (v1) and how (v2)? Why did they do this (v3) and what did they do wrong (v4)? What were the results (v5-6) and now do you think this couple viewed grace?</p>	
<p>3. Using 5:7-11 what happened next (v7) and how did Peter handle it (v8, 9)? Why did he deal with her separately and why were the results (v10-11) so harsh? How should we apply this today?</p>	

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