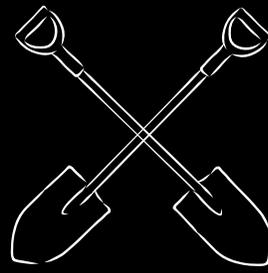


DIGGING DEEPER



SUNDAY
STUDY
RESOURCE



“Continuing Adversity”
ACTS 4:32-35; 5:1-16 NKJV

SYNOPSIS

Of all the places that adversity can come from, it is the most surprising and challenging when it comes from a close and trusted source like family or the church. Continuing in our verse-by-verse study through the book of Acts called “The Speedway”, Pastor Tim teaches a follow up message from Chapters 4 & 5 entitled “Continuing Adversity” that includes 5 takeaways from God’s Word that we can apply in our lives.

Adversity...

- 1) Can come from within
- 2) Should be dealt with swiftly
- 3) Is often times a group effort
- 4) Usually includes time for the adversary to repent
- 5) Will not stop the work of the Lord.

We hope this message encourages you to handle this kind of adversity with faith and obedience to the Lord, knowing that His Word never fails!

“THE SPEEDWAY: FUEL UP”

KEY VERSE

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8 NKJV

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1) Text: Acts 4:32–35

Cross-References: 2 Thessalonians 3:10–13; 1 Timothy 5:3–8; Ephesians 4:28

Discuss: What difference do we see between descriptive practices of the early church and what God actually prescribes for all believers? How do Paul’s instructions in 2 Thessalonians 3 and 1 Timothy 5 reveal the problems caused when resources are given without discernment? How does Ephesians 4:28 guard both against laziness and greed in the church?

2) Text: Acts 4:36–37; Acts 5:1–4

Cross-References: Matthew 6:1–4; Galatians 1:10; Proverbs 21:2

Discuss: How does comparing Barnabas with Ananias and Sapphira reveal the danger of doing spiritual acts for human applause (Matt. 6:1–4)? Why is their sin not keeping part of the money, but lying to God (Acts 5:4)? How does Galatians 1:10 expose the heart-issue behind their deception?

3) Text: Acts 5:7–10

Cross-References: 2 Peter 3:9; Hebrews 3:12–15; James 4:13–17

Discuss: How is Sapphira’s conversation with Peter an intentional opportunity from God to repent? Why does Hebrews 3 warn that sin hardens the heart when repentance is delayed? How do 2 Peter 3:9 and James 4:13–17 challenge the assumption that we always have “more time” to get things right with God?

FAMILY DISCUSSION *(Questions for your middle-school or high-school children)*

Text: Acts 5:12–16

Cross-References: Luke 8:43–48; Mark 6:5–6; Hebrews 11:6

Discuss: What does the contrast of belief and unbelief in Mark 6:5–6 teach us about approaching God? According to Hebrews 11:6, how does true faith keep us from slipping into mere “spectator Christianity”?

REFLECTIONS

- 1) Practice “secret obedience” this week—do one act of generosity or service that no one else knows about. Ask God to expose any self-deception: Where am I presenting myself as more spiritual than I truly am?
- 2) Pray for a renewed sense of God’s holiness and authority. Identify one area of hidden pride. Write down how it endangers your walk with God—and take one step of humility this week.
- 3) Identify one area where God is nudging you to “go” instead of staying comfortable. Commit to one action of obedience this week. Ask yourself: Where am I a filled-up race car sitting in the garage? Then take one step onto the track—share the gospel, serve, or speak up.

RESOURCES

Need Prayer? Email prayer@412temecula.com

Ready to Serve? 412temecula.com/serve