

The Witness Posture: Reverent
Text: Acts 5:1-16
March 25, 2023

Big Idea: To live as a faithful witness for Christ, we must live with an increasing reverence of Christ.

Context is key!

Question #1 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

Question #2 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What does the text say about God and about me?

- a) Is God saying or showing something about Himself? If so, what?
- b) Do the words in the text predict, prophesy or picture something about Jesus? If so, what?
- c) Is God saying or showing something about us? If so, what?
- d) Does the text point to my need for Jesus? How?

Question #3 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What are the principles, commands or promises given?

- a) What is the overall theme of the text?
- b) Does the passage include any promise from God? If so, what?

Question #4 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is the application?

- a) What is one specific way I can live by these truths, or trust in these promises today?
- b) What is the next step that I need to take to see this happen?

Question #5

- a) What does it mean to live with reverence before the Lord?
- b) What are some things that hinder a deepening fear of the Lord in your life? Why those?
- c) Why is living with a posture of reverence before the Lord essential for living as a faithful witness?
- d) Spend time in prayer as a group praying specifically for those areas you mentioned in part b.

A faithful witness is a reverent witness who...

Point 1: KEEPS God PRIORITY: HOLINESS (vv. 1-11)

Question: Reverence prioritizes the holiness of God. It is your priority?

Question #6

- a) **Rd. vv. 1-11:** How was Satan's tactic different than before in opposing the church here?
- b) What were the sins that Ananias and Sapphira committed here?
- c) Why couldn't God just let these go in spite of all the good that was happening in the church?
- d) What impact does sin have in our lives individually and in the church corporately if we aren't quick to address it? (Use Scriptures and share them).
- e) What area(s) of sin are you excusing in your life that are grieving the Holy Spirit? Spend time in confession and repentance in your accountability groups; and ask for support moving forward.

Question #7

- a) **Rd. Romans 6:1-4:** Is God's grace an excuse not to deal with sin in our lives and in the church?
- b) How does God's grace through the gospel help us fight sin in our lives? (Use Scripture to support. Hint: Romans 8 is a great place to start!)
- c) Spend time thanking God for His marvellous grace towards you!

A faithful witness is a reverent witness who...

Point 2: SEES God's POWER: FRUITFULNESS (vv. 33-37)

Question: When sin is purged God's power is seen. Will you humble yourself and repent?

Question #8

- a) **Rd vv. 12-16:** What happened as a result of the unity and purity of the church being restored?
- b) What was the response of the non-believers who didn't join the church? Did you expect this?
- c) What is the danger for the Christian and church who seeks relevance over reverence?
- d) Where are you seeking relevance over reverence in your own life?
- e) What are some fruits that appear when you do that?
- f) What are you thinking in those moments?
- g) What is it you actually want by doing that?
- h) How does the gospel fulfill what you are ultimately seeking? (Use Scripture to support)

Question #9

- a) **Rd Ephesians 4:15-16:** Are only church leaders supposed to address sin in the church?
- b) **Rd. Galatians 6:1:** How does God instruct us to lovingly approach our brothers and sisters when sin arises?
- c) **Rd. Galatians 6:2:** Once sin is addressed, how are we called to walk with them for restoration?
- d) How does living with a reverence for the Lord over man, enable us to address sin in our lives and in the lives of others?

Prayer Application

Spend time as a group or in accountability praying out of Acts 5:1-16. Some prompts are below.

- a) ADORATION: Lord, You are a holy God who _____
- b) CONFESSION: Lord, I repent of excusing _____ sin in my life
- c) THANKSGIVING: Jesus, thank you for Your grace that _____
- d) SUPPLICATION: Lord, I ask you for...i) Increasing holiness in _____ ii) Greater gospel work in your church through _____

Memory Verse:

"And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,"-Acts 5:14