

Awaken| A Broken Church & An Incredible God

INTRODUCTION:

The first few months in the life of the early church were mind-blowing. Miracles, community, thousands coming to faith in Jesus. It seemed so perfect. Then Acts 5 happened. A story reminding us God is perfect and holy, and our sin and rebellion is a serious matter with real consequences. God isn't impressed with our outward appearance or the reputation we may try to project to others. He cares about where our hearts are. When our hearts belong to Him, He'll take broken people and broken churches and revolutionize the world around them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. We see throughout Scriptures the phrase fear of the Lord. In the biblical context what does it mean to fear the Lord? Why is this an important concept to understand?
2. How do you envision the Lord when it comes to your relationship with Him? How do you think the Lord sees His relationship with you?
3. Read Acts 4:32-5:16. What strikes you initially about this passage? What do you think this passage is communicating to the early church and to the church today? Most people consider Luke to be the author of the book of Acts & Luke. Review Luke 16:14-15. How do these verses inform the story you just read in Acts?
4. In Joshua 7 we discover a story about a man named Achan. How does Achan's story relate to the Acts passage? What do these stories reveal about God and man?
5. In Acts 8 we are introduced to a man called Simon the Magician. Why would God strike down Ananias & Sapphira, but not Simon the Magician?
6. Have the previous passages challenged or encouraged your understanding of the Christian faith? If so, how so?

TAKE A STEP

The previous passages can often be heavy and even troubling for some. How can we apply these verses and lessons from long ago to our Christian faith today? It's often said that when a person believes in Jesus their heart is loosened in relationship to things and tightened in relationship to people. The Christian faith seems to be more about internal liberty as opposed to external conformity. What's in our hearts will eventually make its way out. Is there something you have been possessing in your life you need to let go of? If so, write down what it is. You may want to place it somewhere as a reminder this week to loosen your grip on the external, so you can begin to hold tighter to people.

REMEMBER & MEDITATE

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)