

# VIRAL

## HOW THE GOSPEL SPREAD THEN AND NOW

Pastor Lance Ainsworth  
Acts 4:23-5:11

### MESSAGE NOTES

Thursday, Sep 11  
Sunday, Sep 14

Introduction  
Acts 4:23-37 ESV

notes

<sup>23</sup>When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup>And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together (*homothymadon--one accord*) to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the hearth and the sea and everything in them, <sup>25</sup>who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

"'Why did the Gentiles rage, and the people plot in vain"

<sup>26</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'--

<sup>27</sup>for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup>to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. <sup>29</sup>And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, <sup>30</sup>while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." <sup>31</sup>And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

An uncommon community relies on God's power, not human strength.

<sup>32</sup>Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. <sup>33</sup>And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

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## GROUP DISCUSSION

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Viral: How the Gospel Spread Then and Now.

GateWay Church of Visalia, Pastor Lance Ainsworth, Acts 4:23-5:11

September 11th & 14th , 2025

Uncommon Community.

Prayer Requests:

Group Discussion: What is your favorite thing about the fall season?

Read Aloud: Acts 4:23-5:21

1. v. 24, 28 "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them," "to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place." The early church found comfort in seeing God's sovereign plan play out in front of their eyes and then prayed for boldness and miracles. How can we learn from the early churches' balance of understanding God's providence and prayer?

2. v.32 "Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common." How much of our identity comes from where we find belonging? Is belonging about consumption or contribution, or both? What has been your experience?

3. When we look at the comparison between Barabas and Ananias/Saphira, what sticks out to you? Why do we lose our fear/reverence for God? How can we practically be a Barnabas to others? Who has been a Barnabas to you? How can you thank them?