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
²³ When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ And when they heard it, they lifted their <u>voices together</u> (homothymadon-one accord) to God and said, " <u>Sovereign Lord</u> , who made the heaven and the hearth and the sea and everything inthem, ²⁵ 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" ²⁶ The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'	
²⁷ 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, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and <u>your plan</u> had predestined to take place. ²⁹ And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." ³¹ And when they had <u>prayed</u> , 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.	
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. ³³ And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.	

There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. ³⁶ Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, ³⁷ sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.	notes
An uncommon community holds possessions lightly and people dearly.	
Acts 5 ESV	
Sold a man name Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, ² and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the	
proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has	
Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the	
land? ⁴ While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And afer it was sold, was it not at your	
disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God."	
⁵ When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And <u>great fear</u> came upon all who	
heard of it. ⁶ The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him. ⁷ After an	
interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter said to	
her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." But Peter said to	
her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lod? Behold, the feet of those who	
have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." 10 Immediately she fell down at his	
feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her	
out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹ And <u>great</u> fear came upon the whole church and upon all who	
heard of these things."	
Barnabas Authentic	
People builder God's instrument	
God fearing	
Annanias and Sapphira Posers	
Praise Seeker	
Satan's Instrument Spirit Grieving	
An uncommon community has a healthy fear (reverence) of God.	
•	

GROUP DISCUSSION

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," "28to 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?