

THE INTERNAL THREAT TO UNITY

Acts 5.1-11 // July 17, 2022

ONE HEART AND ONE SOUL

As this early church was growing, the Lord was unifying believers in one heart and one soul. Believers were pressing in with great desire for the Lord and each other, caring for others and enjoying fellowship and encouragement. All of this was done by the people's own desire, as none were obligated to do what they were doing. It was a (super) natural overflow of hearts that were grateful and amazed at the salvation that Jesus had given them.

Luke doesn't sugar coat the first church.

**Where redeemed sinners gather, sin is still lurking,
and the evil one, hating their unity, pounces on any opportunity.**

THE BODY'S FIRST INFECTION

We see in Acts and all through the New Testament that the primary threats to the church's unity and health come from within. This is the first, though will not be the last time that a threat comes from within. It is important to note that Ananias and Sapphira were not being disciplined for a lack of generosity (after all, they were giving from their sale!), but for their hypocrisy and lying to the Holy Spirit.

**They valued their reputation
more than they valued their character.**

**Their priority was not the body of Christ,
but their priority was themselves as members of the body.**

For them, their reputation and what others thought of them was more important to them than the integrity of the church family and even their own *true* character and integrity. God takes the unity of His church seriously, and this story warns us that this could be us! We ought to be vigilant against the wiles of the enemy.

Galatians 5.7-9 // 1 Timothy 6. 11, 12

A RIGHT FEAR OF THE LORD

**We survive each day ONLY by grace. Our strength is futile in itself.
We are spiritually impotent without the assistance of God's mercy.**

-RC Sproul

Human nature balks at this story, because we don't think a simple lie is that big of a deal. But this isn't due primarily to our low view of sin (after all, we *hate* being lied to!), but due to our low view of God. This story doesn't teach us that sinners are not welcome at church, but it warns us of trying to deceive God and His people into thinking that we are *not* in need of His imputed righteousness and grace towards us.

NOTES:

This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

1 John 3:1

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We'd love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

Our childrens' ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Amber Willis at amber@lifemission.tv**

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th - 8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service. Visit our website to read more about our junior high ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders stay in the service** with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate high school.

For more information about our Junior High & High School ministries, email **Tyler Willis at tyler@lifemission.tv**.

Contact Us

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CONNECT WITH LMC



Point your smart
phone camera at
the QR Code to
access a virtual
Connection Card

MAILING ADDRESS:

Life Mission Church
420 Twin Oaks Valley Rd., #908
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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before group starts, who can share the **Memory Verse**?

Read **Acts 5.1-11**. What stands out in this passage and from the sermon on Sunday?

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself

Though the story seems to be overflowing with God's wrath and judgement, what Gospel truths are laced within this text (in context with the texts surrounding this section) that give you encouragement as a sinner in the body of Christ?

Your Life Mission

The truth is that we are all, in some form or fashion, act hypocritically. This is commonly the top complaint from non-believers about Christianity. How does this story actually help equip you to share your faith with others who might be skeptical of your own hypocrisy? What relationships and conversations do you need prayer for as you share the Gospel with others?

End the evening in a time of prayer, praying through the theme of the night using the **P.R.A.Y.** model with your group. Pray for these people you have mentioned and for your heart and plan as you pursue them in love.

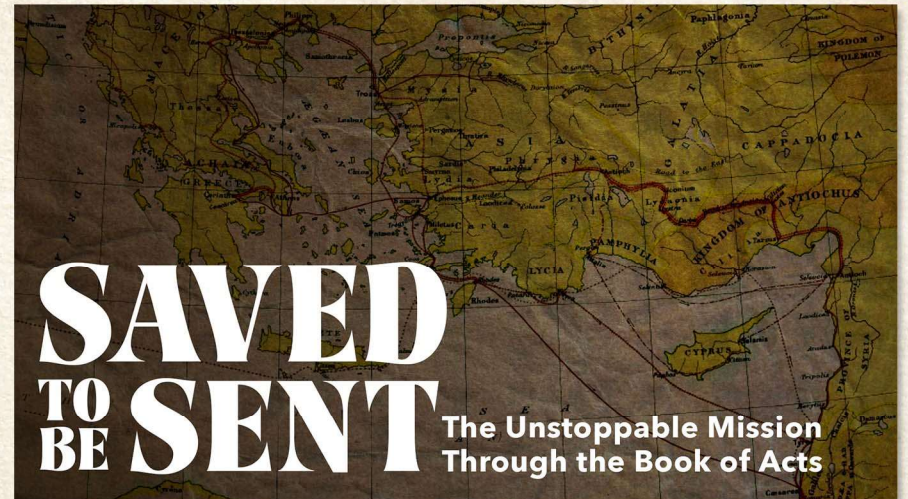
- **Preaching the Gospel to Yourself** (Matthew 6.9, 10)
 - Always begin your time of prayer focusing on God's goodness, who He is, and what He has done for us. Pray truths from this week's text.
- **Repent and Confess** (Matthew 6.12)
 - Real repentance begins where blame-shifting stops. Your circumstances don't need to change, your heart needs to change. Confess any particular sin that prevents you from walking out what God calls us to in the text, or any other particular sin you are wanting to fight. Ask Him to help you have strength to repent and run towards Him.
- **Ask for Provision** (Matthew 6.11-13)
 - Ask God for new perspective and for the things that you need. Once our hearts are fixed on Him, we can ask Him to help us with our needs. When your heart is begin filled with the Gospel first, your asking will be far more in line with God's desires and will. Ask Him to work in the relationships in your life that you are hoping to share God's love with.
- **Yield with Thanksgiving** (Matthew 6.10)
 - End your prayer by giving God thanks for His faithfulness and ask Him to help you trust and yield to His work and ways.



LIFE MISSION

CHURCH

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY,
WHO ARE SAVED, EQUIPPED, AND SENT BY THE GOSPEL.



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SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

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