

Nettleham Methodist Church
Cell Outlines
Week beginning: 20th April 2008
Theme: Giving

To Get Us Started: Have you ever received a present which you suspect had previously been offered to the giver? (i.e. The person who'd received the gift passed it on to you as though they'd bought it themselves!) Or maybe you've done the same - i.e. recycled Christmas and Birthday presents. How did it feel to receive such a gift or how did you feel when you passed it on to someone else!

Word

Read Acts 4:32-5:11.

Here we see a tremendous contrast between the early Church including Barnabas's sacrificial gift (4:32-36) and the deception and posturing of Ananias & Sapphira (5:1-11).

The church was in a time of great blessing, anointing and growth when there was:

- unity & generosity(4:32)
- the favour of the Lord (4:33)
- sacrificial giving and provision (4:34)

Contrast this with the deception and mock public generosity, which was a counterfeit of true Holy Spirit-inspired generosity displayed by Ananias and his wife. At such a time of heightened Holy Spirit anointing the accompanying power of God was present. A & S lied to the Holy Spirit (5:3) and suffered the immediate and awful consequences of their sin.

Discussion starters

Read through Joshua 7 regarding Achan's sin, which badly affected the armies of Israel, because of his deliberate act of defiance against the Lord.

- Withholding what is rightfully someone else's is theft (Discuss)
- Withholding what is due to the Lord is dangerous, disobedient and ultimately catastrophic.
 - Do you agree bearing in mind what happened to Achan and then Ananias and Sapphira?
 - Why do you think God took such drastic and immediate action?
 - What would have been the consequences in both Joshua and Acts if these sins had gone on unchecked?
 - Do you think there is a blasé attitude to sin in the church today?
 - Has God lowered His standards?
 - What is the appropriate response to God bearing in mind His great love for us in Christ?
 - Is it a case of getting away with what we can or giving as much as we can for His glory? (Discuss!)

Witness

How can we be more proactive in sharing with each other and meeting one another's needs? Are you aware of financial needs within your cell, if any? What can you do about this? Why is it such an amazing witness when Christians provide for one another?

Worship/ Prayer

Think of the many ways God has helped you recently and share these together to build one another up in faith.

To finish off the cell meeting spend some time giving to God in worship and praise. We can do this by reminding Him of some of His attributes and qualities. In addition to this you might like to read some Scriptures which tell of His goodness, holiness and power - Ephesians 1:3-12; Colossian 1:15-20; Psalm

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