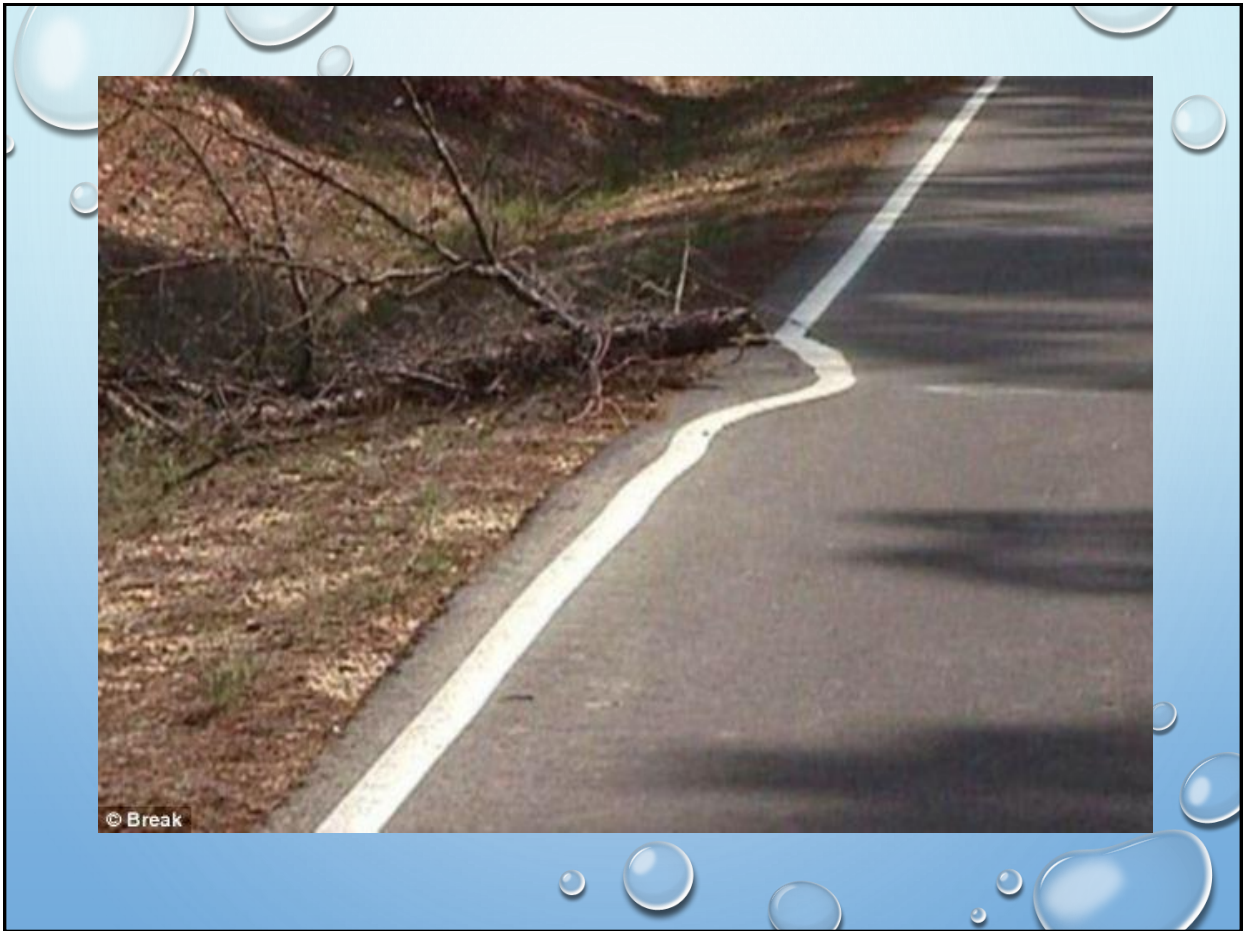
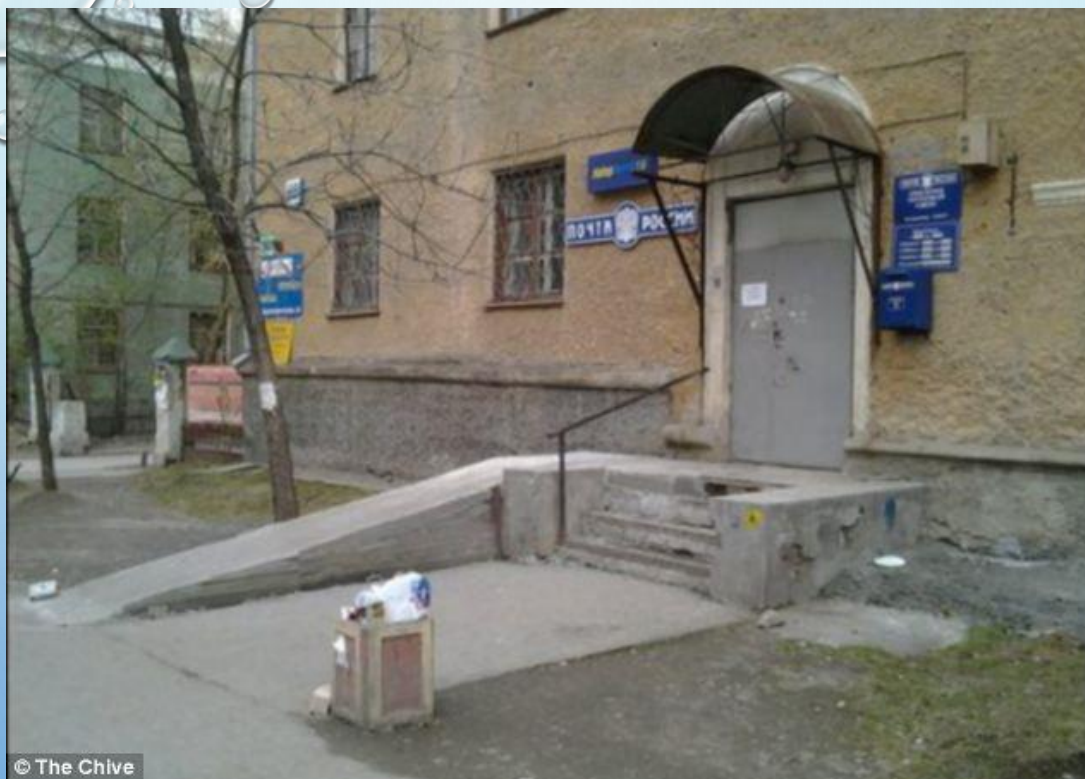




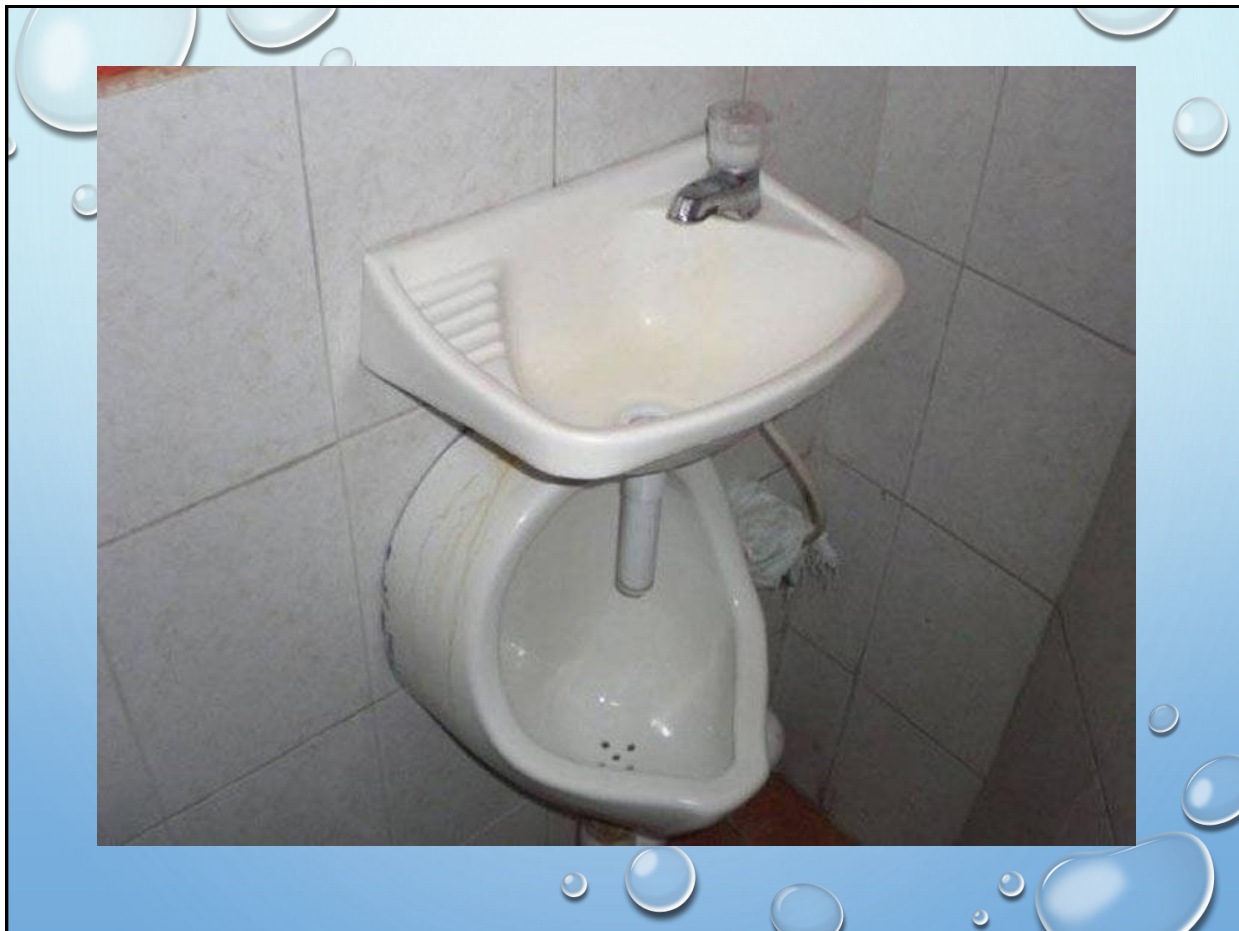
# LIVING WITH PURPOSE

SINCERE SERVICE





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## SERVING GOD SHODDILY

- <sup>NAS</sup> **MALACHI 1:8** "BUT WHEN YOU PRESENT THE BLIND FOR SACRIFICE, IS IT NOT EVIL? AND WHEN YOU PRESENT THE LAME AND SICK, IS IT NOT EVIL? WHY NOT OFFER IT TO YOUR GOVERNOR? WOULD HE BE PLEASED WITH YOU? OR WOULD HE RECEIVE YOU KINDLY?" SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS. <sup>9</sup> "BUT NOW WILL YOU NOT ENTREAT GOD'S FAVOR, THAT HE MAY BE GRACIOUS TO US? WITH SUCH AN OFFERING ON YOUR PART, WILL HE RECEIVE ANY OF YOU KINDLY?" SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS.

## ACTS 4:32 – 5:11

- AN OBJECT LESSON IN SINCERE SERVICE

## CHAPTER AND VERSE

- THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE AS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN HAD NO DIVISIONS
  - DIVIDED INTO CHAPTERS EARLY 13<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY
  - DIVIDED INTO VERSES BY MID 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY
- PRO: MAKES IT EASIER TO FIND INFORMATION
- CON: AT TIMES DIVIDES LITERARY UNITS AFFECTING INTERPRETATION
  - E.G., ACTS 5:1-11

## ACTS 4:32 – 5:11

1. THE AFTEREFFECT OF THE HEALING EVENT 4:32-35
2. A PORTRAIT OF SINCERE SERVICE 4:36-37
3. A PORTRAIT OF DUPLICITOUS SERVICE 5:1-11





1. AFTEREFFECT OF HEALING EVENT 4:32-35

- THE CHURCH IS THE FULFILMENT OF THE NEW COVENANT

- <sup>ESV</sup> **ACTS 4:32** 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.
- <sup>ESV</sup> **JEREMIAH 32:39** I WILL GIVE THEM ONE HEART AND ONE WAY, THAT THEY MAY FEAR ME FOREVER, FOR THEIR OWN GOOD AND THE GOOD OF THEIR CHILDREN AFTER THEM.
- <sup>ESV</sup> **EZEKIEL 11:19** AND I WILL GIVE THEM ONE HEART, AND A NEW SPIRIT I WILL PUT WITHIN THEM. I WILL REMOVE THE HEART OF STONE FROM THEIR FLESH AND GIVE THEM A HEART OF FLESH

## GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

- <sup>ESV</sup> **ACTS 4:29** AND NOW, LORD, LOOK UPON THEIR THREATS AND GRANT TO YOUR SERVANTS TO CONTINUE TO SPEAK YOUR WORD WITH ALL BOLDNESS
  - THE PRAYER
- <sup>ESV</sup> **ACTS 4:33** AND WITH GREAT POWER THE APOSTLES WERE GIVING THEIR TESTIMONY TO THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS, AND GREAT GRACE WAS UPON THEM ALL.
  - THE ANSWER

## SNAPSHOT OF CHURCH

- NIV **ACTS 4:34** THERE WERE NO NEEDY PERSONS AMONG THEM. FOR FROM TIME TO TIME THOSE WHO OWNED LANDS OR HOUSES SOLD THEM, BROUGHT THE MONEY FROM THE SALES<sup>35</sup> AND PUT IT AT THE APOSTLES' FEET, AND IT WAS DISTRIBUTED TO ANYONE AS HE HAD NEED.
- KEY OBSERVATIONS
  1. SENSE OF LOVE AND COMMUNITY
  2. APOSTLES SPREAD WORD AND RESOURCES
  3. CHURCH UNDER APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY

## “AT THE APOSTLES’ FEET”

- <sup>NIV</sup> **1 SAMUEL 25:24** SHE FELL AT HIS FEET AND SAID: "MY LORD, LET THE BLAME BE ON ME ALONE. PLEASE LET YOUR SERVANT SPEAK TO YOU; HEAR WHAT YOUR SERVANT HAS TO SAY.
- <sup>NIV</sup> **PSALM 8:6** YOU MADE HIM RULER OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; YOU PUT EVERYTHING UNDER HIS FEET:
- <sup>NIV</sup> **LUKE 8:35** AND THE PEOPLE WENT OUT TO SEE WHAT HAD HAPPENED. WHEN THEY CAME TO JESUS, THEY FOUND THE MAN FROM WHOM THE DEMONS HAD GONE OUT, SITTING AT JESUS' FEET, DRESSED AND IN HIS RIGHT MIND; AND THEY WERE AFRAID.

## EXAMPLES OF APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY

- <sup>ESV</sup> **1 CORINTHIANS 4:21** WHAT DO YOU WISH? SHALL I COME TO YOU WITH A ROD, OR WITH LOVE IN A SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS?
- <sup>ESV</sup> **2 CORINTHIANS 1:23** BUT I CALL GOD TO WITNESS AGAINST ME--IT WAS TO SPARE YOU THAT I REFRAINED FROM COMING AGAIN TO CORINTH. <sup>24</sup> NOT THAT WE LORD IT OVER YOUR FAITH, BUT WE WORK WITH YOU FOR YOUR JOY, FOR YOU STAND FIRM IN YOUR FAITH.

## 2. A PORTRAIT OF SINCERE SERVICE 4:36-37

- <sup>NAS</sup> **ACTS 4:36** AND JOSEPH, A LEVITE OF CYPRIAN BIRTH, WHO WAS ALSO CALLED BARNABAS BY THE APOSTLES (WHICH TRANSLATED MEANS, SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT), <sup>37</sup> AND WHO OWNED A TRACT OF LAND, SOLD IT AND BROUGHT THE MONEY AND LAID IT AT THE APOSTLES' FEET.

## SINCERE SERVICE OF BARNABAS

### A. SUBMITTED TO APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY SINCERELY

- LAID ALL MONEY AT THEIR FEET
- RENAMED BY APOSTLES

### B. SERVED GOD WITH A SINCERE HEART

- LEVITE SO HE WORKED FOR THE LAND
- SOLD ALL THAT HE OWNED ("A TRACT")
- GAVE ALL THE PROCEEDS OF THE SALE





3. A PORTRAIT OF DUPLICITOUS SERVICE 5:1-11

## DUPlicitous SERVICE OF ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

### A. SUBMITTED TO APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY DUPlicitOUSLY

- LAID SOME MONEY AT THEIR FEET
  - PROBLEM WAS NOT HOLDING MONEY BACK, IT WAS LYING ABOUT IT (5:4)

### B. SERVED GOD WITH A DUPlicitOUS HEART

- LAND LIKELY INHERITED THROUGH TRIBAL LINEAGE
  - MINIMAL PERSONAL COST
- SOLD A PIECE OF PROPERTY (ONE OF MANY)
- GAVE SOME OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE SALE

## JUDGMENT AS FULFILMENT OF PROPHECY

- <sup>NAS</sup> **ACTS 3:23** 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERY SOUL THAT DOES NOT HEED THAT PROPHET SHALL BE UTTERLY DESTROYED FROM AMONG THE PEOPLE.'
  - THE PROPHECY
- <sup>NAS</sup> **ACTS 5:3** BUT PETER SAID, "ANANIAS, WHY HAS SATAN FILLED YOUR HEART TO LIE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND TO KEEP BACK SOME OF THE PRICE OF THE LAND? ...
  - THE PROPHET
- <sup>ESV</sup> **ACTS 5:5** WHEN ANANIAS HEARD THESE WORDS, HE FELL DOWN AND BREATHED HIS LAST ...
  - THE FULFILMENT

## THE FALL OF ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

- <sup>NIV</sup> **LUKE 16:13** "NO SERVANT CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS. EITHER HE WILL HATE THE ONE AND LOVE THE OTHER, OR HE WILL BE DEVOTED TO THE ONE AND DESPISE THE OTHER. YOU CANNOT SERVE BOTH GOD AND MONEY."
- <sup>NAS</sup> **MALACHI 1:8** "BUT WHEN YOU PRESENT THE BLIND FOR SACRIFICE, IS IT NOT EVIL? AND WHEN YOU PRESENT THE LAME AND SICK, IS IT NOT EVIL? WHY NOT OFFER IT TO YOUR GOVERNOR? WOULD HE BE PLEASED WITH YOU? OR WOULD HE RECEIVE YOU KINDLY?" SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS.

## BARNABAS VS ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

- <sup>NIV</sup> **LUKE 21:1** AS HE LOOKED UP, JESUS SAW THE RICH PUTTING THEIR GIFTS INTO THE TEMPLE TREASURY. <sup>2</sup> HE ALSO SAW A POOR WIDOW PUT IN TWO VERY SMALL COPPER COINS. <sup>3</sup> "I TELL YOU THE TRUTH," HE SAID, "THIS POOR WIDOW HAS PUT IN MORE THAN ALL THE OTHERS."



# CONCLUSIONS

## APPLICATION

- TO GLORIFY GOD AND EXPERIENCE HIS BLESSINGS WE NEED TO SERVE WITH SINCERITY NOT DUPLICITY
  - THE EXAMPLES OF BARNABAS, ANANIAS, AND SAPPHIRA ARE MEANT TO HELP US JUDGE OURSELVES NOT OTHERS

## SINCERE SERVICE

- A. SUBMIT TO APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY
  - THE BIBLE
- B. SERVE WITH A SINCERE HEART
  - WOULD OUR EMPLOYER APPROVE?



## THE OUTCOME

- <sup>NAS</sup> **ACTS 4:33** AND WITH GREAT POWER THE APOSTLES WERE GIVING WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS, AND ABUNDANT GRACE WAS UPON THEM ALL.