

Acts 4:32-5:11
This is Serious Business

Into the Lesson:

What have been some of the great rivalries throughout history?

The Celtics vs. the Lakers
Ali vs. Frasier
The Hatfields and McCoys
The Capulets and the Montagues (That's Romeo and Juliet for those who went to Longmont High.)

What are some others you can think of?

Are rivalries necessarily bad?

What are some of the positive aspects of a rivalry?

Into the Word:

Even though the early church was realizing amazing growth and people's lives were being changed, not everyone had bought into what was happening creating a rivalry of sorts.

Read Acts 5:1-11 and contemplate how serious the rest of the church must have felt about the act of giving after what happened.

Respond to Lane's comment '...this isn't about dollars and cents-it's about the heart of the follower...'

The same verb used by Peter in v.3 when he asked, "Ananias, why has Satan **filled** your heart..." is the same word we read in Ephesians 5:18.

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The same verb used by Peter in v.3 when he asked, "Ananias, why has Satan **filled** your heart..." is the same word we read in Ephesians 5:18.

How does this confirm that this was not a financial matter but a heart matter?

Read the following passages and reflect on how Satan wants to deceive, redirect and deflect the paths of believers:

Genesis 3:4 John 10:10 Romans 1:32

Into Life:

What are some of the issues facing young people today?

Respond to Lane's statement '...our society-which if you haven't noticed-is not interested in our spiritual growth and is capitalizing on that...'

How did the community of believers respond to some very negative events they experienced in the first century? How important was it for them to continue in Acts 2:41-43

How can we continue the sense of community that is as vital to all of us as we grow in Christ together?

How do we make growing in faith our priority?

What are three things you can do this week to grow your faith?

"Let us band together and in the strength of the Spirit-Overcome"

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