

More Than A Band Aid

Acts 5:1-20

1. Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property.
2. With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.
3. Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"
4. Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."
5. When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened.
6. Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.
7. About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.
8. Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" "Yes," she said, "that is the price."
9. Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."
10. At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband.
11. Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.
12. The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.
13. No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people.
14. Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.
15. As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by.
16. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.
17. Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy.
18. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.

19. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out.

20. "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life."

Mark 2:21 - "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. Jesus used the parable of an unshrunk patch to illustrate the fact that He came to completely transform the lives of His followers - not just patch up their old lives.

The Band Aid of...

1.) RELATIONSHIP without REGENERATION.

Regeneration — Charles Finney - "a voluntary change of the ultimate preference of the soul, produced by the spiritual illumination of the Holy Spirit."

John 3:1 - Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

Matt. 5:48 - Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

2 Corinthians 7:1 - Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

2 Corinthians 13:9 - "and our prayer is for your perfection."

2 Corinthians 13:11 - "Aim for perfection"

Col 1:28 - We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

Heb. 10:14 - by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

Billy Graham - "I've spent my life preaching the gospel...watched thousands, literally millions walk the isle to accept Christ. Until I die, I'll never know how few of them really meant it."

2 Peter 2:22 - Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud."

2.) REMORSE without REPENTANCE.

Repentance — Charles Finney - "the voluntary and actual renunciation of all sin...a radical change of mind toward God."

Lk. 5:31-32

31. Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

32. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Luke 15:18 – He said "I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you."

Ps. 51:1-13 David prayed after adultery and murder:

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

⁶ Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.

"Repentance" {METANOIA}-a change of heart.

Acts 26:20 – "First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds."

Matt. 21:28-32

²⁸"What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'

²⁹" 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰"Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.

³¹"Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.

³²For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

3.) CHRISTIANITY without CONVERSION.

Conversion - Charles Finney - the sinner's action of inner change in response to the truth taken under the persuasion of the Holy Spirit.

Matt. 3:7-8

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

⁹And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

¹⁰The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.