

## 1. Introduction

- a. There's nothing people hate more than hypocrisy
    - i. Survey, a primary blame
  - b. Hypocrisy defined as: the state of falsely believing/claiming to possess qualities or virtues, that one actually lacks; pretending
  - c. *Hypokrite*: a technical term for a stage actor. Professional impersonator
  - d. In Athens, two politicians ran a smear campaign, one claiming the other couldn't be trusted b/c he had been a successful *hypokrite* before taking up politics
  - e. We've seen it in our government (Christian Nation and \_\_\_\_\_)
    - i. In our culture (People who claim faith yet pave a culture of immorality)
    - ii. In religion (claiming to love while proclaiming hate)
    - iii. In ourselves (Despising things, but falling prey to them - gossip, lust, anger, drunkenness)
  - f. So is there hope? What is the cause of hypocrisy, what are its consequences, and how do we overcome it?
2. *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. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. (Acts 4:32-37, ESV)*
- a. A community with one mind and focus
    - i. Not communism - this isn't distribution or coercion
    - ii. They've had a paradigm shift in their mindset
      1. New life, new family, new mission, new purpose
  - b. A Gospel Centered community
    - i. We talk a lot about hear, embrace, & be at Revolve
    - ii. When we hear and then take ownership over the Gospel, it will change who we are
  - c. The people in this passage were a people of word & deed
    - i. hear & obey, practice what you preach, put your money where your mouth is, talk is cheap
    - ii. Even to point of incredible self-sacrifice like Barnabas w/out real recognition (normally you get something for your sacrifice)
    - iii. Only Gospel powered change (generosity found in Jesus) can do that
3. *But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. (Acts 5:1-2)*
- a. What's the problem? Seems reasonable (Lego pic)

- b. The problem was hypocrisy - falsely claiming virtues that one lacks
    - i. Barnabas sold a field, maybe they should too!
    - ii. Barnabas had proper motives, they didn't
    - iii. To be seen, to be valued, to impress Peter, to impress God - who knows
    - iv. Lied in order to appear to be more virtuous than they actually were
      - 1. We can relate to that, can't we?
  - c. Hypocrisy is rooted in a misunderstanding of the Gospel b/c people feel the need to make themselves look better than they actually are to impress others
    - i. Your identity has to be found in the Gospel
    - ii. Who you strive to please has to be rooted in Gospel
    - iii. Righteousness is found in Gospel by faith
    - iv. Generosity is rooted in Gospel
    - v. Humility before God is rooted in the Gospel
  - d. Presence of hypocrisy = an absence of Gospel-fueled transformation**
4. *But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God." Acts 5:3-4*
- a. Filled w/ Satan vs. filled w/ Holy Spirit
    - i. Ever think about your hypocrisy as being = filled w/ Satan?
      - 1. Strong words, why so strong?
    - ii. Hypocrisy stains and derails the church from its God-given mission to glorify God by making disciples via pride, lies, & ruined credibility**
    - iii. Hypocrisy infects the church by destroying the individual
      - 1. ex: pastors or leaders falling, Ted Haggard
      - 2. Something you need to guard and we need to guard
  - b. Why did you feel the need to lie about it?
    - i. Nobody forced you to sell it (that would justify the lie)
    - ii. Nobody would care if you kept a percentage!
  - c. Hypocritical people have it backwards
    - i. Good standing w/ God b/c of Christ, not our deeds
    - ii. Only one audience to worry about - God (righteous by faith)
    - iii. Maybe trying to earn value with God, w/ people, w/ self
  - d. The Gospel doesn't require as prerequisite, it compels as a response**
    - i. Saved from work for work as a compulsion & overflow
    - ii. Hear, Embrace, Be
5. *When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him. (Acts 5:5-6)*
- a. Ever think about how serious God is?
    - i. Abba father, daddy w/ kid on knee, but also fearsome warrior
    - ii. tattooed Jesus and that ain't no crayon
    - iii. God is serious about sin, about his bride the church

- b. The cost of hypocrisy (head w/out heart) is great
    - i. Hypocrisy shows a heart disconnected
    - ii. Head knowledge does not equal salvation & forgiveness
    - iii. Heart surrendered to Jesus in faith, which may begin w/ knowledge is the only way to heaven
      - 1. A culture/pattern of hypocrisy reveals knowledge of God without surrender to God
      - 2. People might think they are believers...
  - c. For that kind of heart, the consequences are scary and dire
    - i. Jesus can always forgive, even today, but you must surrender to the king, not just know who he is in your brain
  - d. The cure for hypocrisy is Gospel submission in both word (knowledge) and deed (overflow of heart transformation)**
6. *After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. (Acts 5:7-10)*
- a. Hypocrisy infects and spreads like a plague
    - i. Beware in your marriage, your relationships, your friendships, etc
    - ii. Comparing yourself to others instead of the God & Word is dangerous
  - b. Leads to → the trap of convincing yourself that you have arrived, that you are living it out, or that you are more on target than you actually are
    - i. (everybody acts like this, its an acceptable level of sin)
  - c. How do you know if you are a hypocrite?
    - i. Hypocritical people are ignorant to their own sin (proud)
      - 1. Read passages about Jesus & think it describes them
      - 2. Knowledge w/out conviction/heart
    - ii. Hypocritical people think looking holy = being holy (it doesn't)
      - 1. Which is why they come off as holier than thou
      - 2. "Well I don't struggle w/ that, so I must be doing well"
    - iii. Hypocritical people seek to please man instead of God
      - 1. Insecure in their identity in the Gospel so they are desperate for the approval of others (am I trying to please God or man?)
      - 2. Reward is on earth if that's the case
  - d. Hypocrisy is catastrophic, but the Gospel can destroy it**
    - i. Hear, EMBRACE, and Be
    - ii. When we skip the embrace part, we pave the way for hypocrisy
7. *And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things. (Acts 5:1-11, ESV)*
- a. New Chapter in God's History, Fresh Power, Serious God

- i. Is he safe? No, but he's good (protects his people and his church)
- b. Tell story of Achan
- c. A little fear is a good thing
  - i. Reminds us of who God is and who we are
- 8. Conclusion:
  - a. We are tempted to be hypocritical so that we look more XYZ than we actually are
    - i. Whether to impress God, others, or lie to ourselves
  - b. The problem is that you can never be good enough.
    - i. You can't be sacrificial enough, pure enough, generous enough, XYZ
    - ii. You can't do it, which is why you need to be saved
  - c. Jesus came, lived, died, rose again so that you could be given his righteousness
    - i. A righteousness that you can't earn
    - ii. When we embrace that righteousness in faith, we are changed
  - d. Ask God to reveal to you your hypocrisy
    - i. Maybe you've been living your whole life as a Christian in your head, but not a follower of Jesus in your heart (example)
      - 1. Knowledge about religion w/out a surrendered heart is the source of hypocrisy**
    - ii. Maybe you have an area of your life that you are compartmentalizing and refuse to let the Gospel invade it (giving, purity, examples)
  - e. Surrender it to the grace, forgiveness, and transformation of Jesus
    - i. The gospel isn't about modifying your behavior, it's about surrendering to a King.
    - ii. First time surrendering
    - iii. Continually Gospel surrender, daily renewal
  - f. This week:
    - i. If you claim to follow Jesus, live like it. Watch/Observe your actions
    - ii. Are you living a double life, are you a hypocrite? What's the disconnect?
      - 1. If you aren't living like it, what are you not surrendering to?
    - iii. Make a point to hear and embrace daily so that in God's power you will be the person he wants you to be & live the mission he has given to you
    - iv. Surrender to the Gospel daily
    - v. Pray, read the Bible, ask God to root it in your heart, surrender to Him
  - g. Fight hypocrisy by surrendering to the Gospel**