

Man With the Oily Disposition

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Introduction.

A. Turn to the only unfinished book of the New Testament. (Acts)

1. This is not a record of what Christ has done alone but to what he is doing.

2. Let's pray.

a. Father thank you for your teaching ministry.

b. Thank you that your word will never pass away.

c. Holy Spirit, open our hearts to hear what you are Teaching.

B. We want to look at an ordinary man who lived an extraordinary life.

1. Barnabas was a contemporary of Peter and Paul. (Acts 11)

a. At Antioch the Gospel had success and doctrine was in dispute.

b. Barnabas was hand picked to handle this problem.

c. He had a talent for untying knots.

2. Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Ghost and faith. (Acts 11:24)

I. What are the marks of the filling of the Spirit?

A. The apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit with power and grace. (Acts 4:31)

1. They had all things in common.

2. Luke's message here is selective, moving from general to specific.

a. Barnabas was called son of consolation.

b. He sold a piece of land and laid it at the apostles' feet, marking him as a man of generosity.

c. I have a friend in Texas who owns much land.

d. Barnabas' land was in a prosperous area.

e. Ananias and Saphira also sold property to give to the apostles, but they lied about the value of it in order to receive acclamation.

1. Peter rebuked them saying they lied not to men but to God.
2. They were free to keep it or to give a portion, so their false pretense of giving all was offensive to God.
3. Their motive must have been selfish.
4. If God still followed this pattern today he we would have to set up a morgue in every church.
5. I believe the Lord used this as an example of pretending in the church.

c. A good example of wrong giving is found in the Sermon on the Mount. (Matthew 6:1)

1. There are many exhortations to give. (1 Corinthians 16: 1-4)
2. Money cuts deep into character.
3. When we give we should not sound the trumpet to call attention to ourselves for that becomes our reward.
4. Ananias and Saphira gave to be seen by men and that ended the transition.
5. God wants us to give in secret so he can reward us.
6. The Spirit produces gracious holy giving.

d. Another example of giving deals with how people give. (Mark 12:42)

1. Jesus commended the widow because she gave with an attitude of trust.
2. The work of God in the church is often supported by poor people.
3. There is a difference between costly giving and convenient giving.
4. The longer I am a Christian the more I appreciate that a mark of the filling of the Spirit is what we do with money.
5. The problem today is not the high cost of living but the cost of high living.

B. The apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit, displaying kindness and charity. (Acts 9:36)

1. Saul had been threatening the Christians. (Acts 9:1)
2. Ananias was told to pray for Paul after he had been converted. (Acts 9:10)
 - a. This scared Ananias.

b. But the Lord had him go anyway.

3. Barnabas displayed kindness and charity by taking Saul into his confidence.

a. Barnabas was the first Navigator.

b. He had a concern for others, particularly when no one else is interested.

c. If Barnabas did nothing other than helping Paul he made a major contribution.

d. But Barnabas helped John Mark also. (Acts 15:36)

e. Even Paul called for John Mark later in his ministry after Barnabas had worked with him. (2 Timothy 4)

f. Both Paul and Mark outstripped Barnabas in public ministry because he had built into them.

g. The principle is that God chooses a man not because of what he is but because of what he can become.

h. An astute businessman would not have picked the apostles to build a company.

1. Peter said the wrong thing at the wrong time.

2. Thomas doubted.

3. Philip and Andrew were rather common.

4. I had a common student that graduated and took a church in Canada where he excelled. This changed the way I view people.

C. Conclusion.

1. Lord we come to the end of this week looking for you to speak to us.

2. Why does it take us so long to sell out completely to you?

a. A father asked his little that if she loved him she would give him her costume pearls.

b. She reluctantly gave her pearls to her father.

c. In return the father gave her genuine pearls.

d. She would not have had difficulty giving what was in her hand if she had known what was in her father's hand.

3. Are you willing to be made willing to do God's will?