



Encouragement is More Valuable than Oil

Acts 4:32-37

Context: A man who was lame for forty plus years was healed and trouble followed.

Listen: Please bear with me as I start with the bad news this morning:

Why are you even talking about this? We often face anxieties about the future and specifically about scarcity in the future.

The Central Truth: The glorious condition of the early church:

- Spiritual unity led to material sacrifice and,

- Resurrection testimony led to abundant grace.

- Final result: encouragement all around!!!

For Instance: A guy named Joseph got the nickname of Barnabas. (vv 36, 37)

Application: If we wanted widespread encouragement and abundant grace and fully met needs within our body we would need to strive for:

- **Spiritual unity:** Unity and harmony on the essentials of the faith and gospel. Dialogue, agreement, sacrifice, forgiveness, preferring one another, love, commitment, kindness, generosity, and generally obeying the fifty + “one another” commands.
- **Proclamation faithfulness:** Telling lost and broken people about the truth of the resurrection. Faith-based conversations with people around us, intentional outreach to those around us, faithful service to those around us, sharing our faith in ways that are natural to us, believing prayer for opportunities, impact, and salvations.

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk this week.

The Central Idea: The glorious condition of the early church:

- Spiritual unity led to material sacrifice and,
- Resurrection testimony led to abundant grace and,
- Final result: encouragement all around!!!

Following Christ is a daily deal. Please take some time each day this week to think through these questions and ideas:

- **Today:** Please take some time today to pray for spiritual unity in the body at Cypress Bible Church. Ask the Father what you personally need to do to promote that unity.
- **Monday:** Please ask the Father if you should give something to someone in order to meet a need.
- **Tuesday:** Please pray and do a private brainstorm about people whom you might engage in a “faith-based conversation.”
- **Wednesday:** Pray for God’s abundant grace to rest on Cypress Bible Church.
- **Thursday:** Enumerate to God the things that are causing you anxiety and pray for His courage and encouragement in all these things.
- **Friday:** Ask the Lord who you should bless with an act of encouragement—giving to meet a need, words of encouragement, a note, a call, a gift, or....
- **Saturday:** Please pray for great spiritual impact tomorrow morning during the VBS services.

“Dear Father, bring us to the glorious condition of the early church in Acts 4. In Jesus’ name. Amen.