

## Actual Reality 8:

### Acts 5:1-11

James came and shared on Acts chapter 5. When he examined this hard to hear passage with us, he tackled a number of things but he majored on How we give, Dealing with Sin in the Christina community and Fear of the Lord.

This passage is clearly about giving. Here we see an example of how not to give. Ananias and Sapphira were concerned about how they would look in the eyes of the Church not about giving what they felt led to. This raises questions about how we give today. Bear in mind that whilst this passage is about giving to the church directly, the principles ring true for giving to any cause. PBC would not want you to give solely to us. There are plenty of Godly causes that need people to give to them.

How good are we at giving and 'forgetting' what we have given?

Are we ever tempted to boast about how much we give?

How would we feel if someone were to challenge us on our giving?

When might we be tempted to hold our giving over church leadership?

James then moved pointed out that the passage we looked at last week deals with opposition from without the Christian community, whilst this passage deal with opposition from within that community. What should be the church's response to those who sin? *It might be helpful to remember that in this is very much a case of 'there but for the grace of God go I'...*

How do we create an environment where people will be honest about their sin? What are the specific roles of leaders of the church and the congregation in creating this?

Is people's honesty entirely down to us?

James then moved onto measures that are preventative regarding sin. He said that the starting point is the Fear of the Lord.

How does the phrase 'Fear of the Lord' make you feel?

Why is fear of the Lord the first step in trying to either prevent or address sin in our lives?

How can we help those who may have become too pally with God, to rediscover their reverence for him?

### Ideas for Creative Responses

- Think as a small group about what you can do to raise money for the charities that PBC is supporting (International Needs, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, BMS and Embrace)
- You could potentially create a financial accountability structure in your small group. This group could be used to help decide whether spending money on a particular thing is wise or other matters.