



CHRIST THE VINE

lutheran church

4:32-6:7 – A Community Persecuted

The Book of Acts

Christ the Vine Lutheran Church | Temecula CA

Spring, 2020

In this lesson...

- 4:32-5:11 – The community of believers
- 5:12-5:41 – More opposition from Jewish leadership
- 6:1-7 – The Choosing of the Seven



Peter heals the lame man





The Early Community of Believers

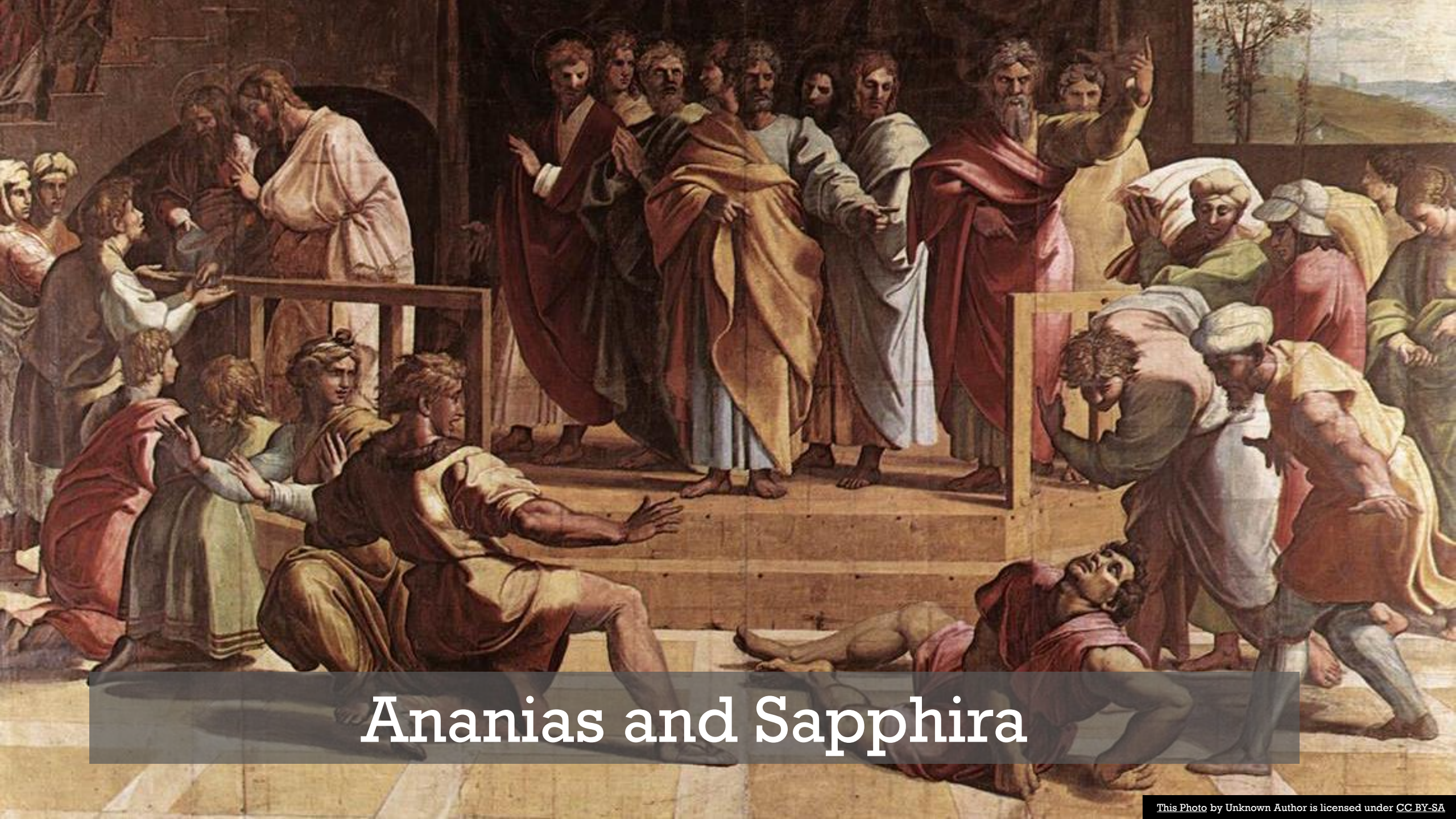
- “All the believers were one in heart and mind”
- “They shared everything...”
- Continue to focus on Christ’s resurrection
- Selling land and property to fund the mission
- “Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.”

The role of the resurrection in Evangelism

- “What if Christ really had risen from the dead...”
 - Then he really is God.
 - Then I really ought to listen to him.

The Community of believers

- **Not compulsory**
- **Private property was still allowed.**
- **Small group of likeminded individuals.**
- **For a purpose...**



Ananias and Sapphira



Ananias and Sapphira

- Why did they get struck down? (and who did it)?
- What was the result of this judgment?

The Ministry Work

- “The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon’s Colonnade.”
- Luke no longer gives us a number for how many believers there now are.
- “...the sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.”

Persecution

- **As a result?**
 - The high priest and the Sadducees arrested the apostles and put them in jail.
 - An angel opened the doors and brought them out saying, “Go, stand in the temple courts, and tell the people all about this new life.”
 - And so the next day, the apostles are arrested again!

Persecution

- On trial again...
 - “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name. Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”
 - Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings!”

Persecution

- On trial again...
 - The “judges” were furious and wanted to put them to death.
 - Gamaliel, a pharisee, convinced them to let them live, “If they fail, you have nothing to worry about. If they succeed, they are from God.”
 - The apostles were flogged and let go.

Persecution

- “The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. 42 Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.”

“We must obey
God rather than
men.”

- In light of recent events, how does this apply?

An Opportunity to
serve: (The
Choosing of the
Seven)

- **Greek Jews and Hebraic Jews.**
- **Distribution of food.**
- **The Twelve, “We can’t neglect our calling in order to serve food. Let’s choose seven who are “known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom.”**

The Seven

Stephen

Philip

Procorus

Nicanor

Timon

Parmenas

Nicolas from Antioch

The Ministry Work

- **“It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.”**
 - **How does this help us view our day jobs or our volunteer work at church?**



CHRIST THE VINE

lutheran church