

MY NOTES

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us (we must be out of this one by December 2016).

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these “challenges” are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

Week 13

ACTS

Accountability
That Exposes Us

TODAY'S VERSES:

Acts 5:1-11

Jeremiah 23:23-24

Matthew 22:37-38

Matthew 28:18-20

Romans 8:1

Hebrews 12:6

Proverbs 14:12

Galatians 6-7

1 John 3:15-16

Hebrews 10:19-39

Psalms 103:8-10

Psalms 119:11

Psalms 23:1-3

Jude 1:20-23

Psalms 118:26

UPCOMING @ ELEMENT

Connect Party

May 13th at 7pm. Join us for dessert and hang out and connect with others and the leadership of Element! Email connect@ourelement.org to RSVP.

eFamily Spring Market

Shop Local this Saturday from 9-3pm and help send kids to camp!

eKids! Muffins with Mom

May 1st after 11am Service





So far in Acts:

A Story That
Enlightens Us

A Resurrection And
Ascension That Is
Promised To US

Guidance That
Leads Us

A Heritage That
Informs Us

Worship That
Reminds Us

Preaching That
Changes Us

Generosity That
Defines Us

Compassion That Is
Bigger Than Us

Truth That
Challenges Us

A Name That
Confronts Us

Community That
Encourages Us

Membership That
Accounts For Us

Week 13 – Acts 5:1-11

Accountability That Exposes Us

This is our 13th week going through the book of Acts. We are studying the book of Acts in an effort to better understand what Jesus calls the church to be and how He expects it to function. Most churches won't do everything perfect, or even well, at times, but we can strive to be what Jesus has called us to be.

When was the last time you got caught doing something you know you should not have been doing?

How did you feel when you got busted?

Today we are talking about the difficult subject of accountability and being exposed in our weakness while trying to hide our sin. In the book of Jeremiah God reminds us *“Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? Declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? Declares the LORD?” (Jeremiah 23:23)*

Have you ever tried to hide something from God?

How did you do it?

Did you feel like He didn't see or know?

We serve the God of the Universe, who sees everything that we do, knows every thought we think, and is never deceived about the desires of our hearts. God knows that we sin and yet He offers us salvation and allows us to participate in His holy plan. To be in right fellowship with God, God expects us to turn from sin even after we have been forgiven of all sin at the point of salvation.

Accountability is not only a powerful tool for the Christ follower to bring honor to the Lord, but is also inevitable for all people, both those who believe in Jesus and those who don't.

Read Acts 5:1-11.

What are your first reactions after reading this account?

Why were Ananias and Sapphira held accountable in this way?

How could members of their church community help to prevent this tragedy?

God has patience and long suffering for His creations, but that doesn't mean justice will never come. Consider the patience and justice of God with regard to His people, Israel. God sent His chosen people to exile for 70 years because they would not repent, but keep in mind, He gave them nearly 400 years to repent of their idolatry before He finally dealt with them. God told the people of Israel, through the prophets time and time again, that if they would just repent, He would turn from His anger and spare their destruction.

Read: 1 Corinthians 11:27-32

What does it mean to be righteous before God and why should a Christian live a righteous life?

Why must a Christian judge himself (not others)?

We should yield our lives to Christ, subordinate our will to His will, do His work for His glory and His kingdom, then in the midst of obedience to Christ we might find that we are more like Christ. The goal of accountability is to be like Christ and serve Christ.

There are three main ways Christians can access accountability.

1. HOLY SPIRIT: Through the leading of the Holy Spirit
2. OTHER CHRISTIANS: Through fellow Christians who are walking with God
3. GOD'S DISCIPLINE: Through the discipline of God in a believer's life

How can we hold one another accountable without being judgmental?

Is it right to tolerate open sin within the body of Christ?

How does accountability bring restoration within the Church and individual believer's lives?