

***The Church UNLEASHED!***  
***“True Faith and Showmanship Religion”***

**Listen Up**

- Can you spot the real Christian?
- What identifies us Christians is how are life is impacted by Jesus that seeks to follow and be like Him.
  - Doesn’t mean perfect, overtly religious, or always focused on “churchy” things
- Acts is a history of the early church, a church filled with the Holy Spirit and committed to the Gospel. And others took notice!
  - Returning to our Acts Statement from week 1
- Crisis outside and inside the church which reveals difference in “True Faith” and “Showmanship religion”

**Dig into the Word (Acts 4-5)**

- True Faith is...
  - True Faith stands for what is right no matter the cost, out of a conviction and devotion to Jesus Christ. (Acts 4:1-14)
    - Parresia= Courage/boldness. A word spoken with conviction.
  - True Faith seeks to be faithful to Christ, not to have a religion of convenience. (Acts 4:23-30)
    - Praying for boldness compared to praying for easier circumstances
  - True Faith seeks to build up those around them, not tear them down. (Acts 4:31-37)
    - Remember... “Be a Barnabas!”
    - Giving of self, of resources, or support, of truth
- False Showmanship religion is...
  - False Showmanship is concerned more about appearance than faithfulness (Acts 5:1-10)
    - Reputation vs. character
  - False Showmanship is more concerned with “what’s in it for me” not the glory of God.
  - False Showmanship will eventually be shown for what it is.
    - Immediate consequence and delayed revelation.

**So What?**

- Looks can be deceiving, but Fruits can be seen.
- The Power of the Church when she is Unleashed!
- When the Church is Unleashed, the Gospel is proclaimed, people are encouraged, and we embody the truth of the Gospel in ourselves and our community.

**Final Thought**

- Scars of Stupidity and Scars of Disgraceful honor.
- Steve Saint and the “foolishness” of missions (Acts 5:41-42)

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