



The story, power and purpose of the Church.



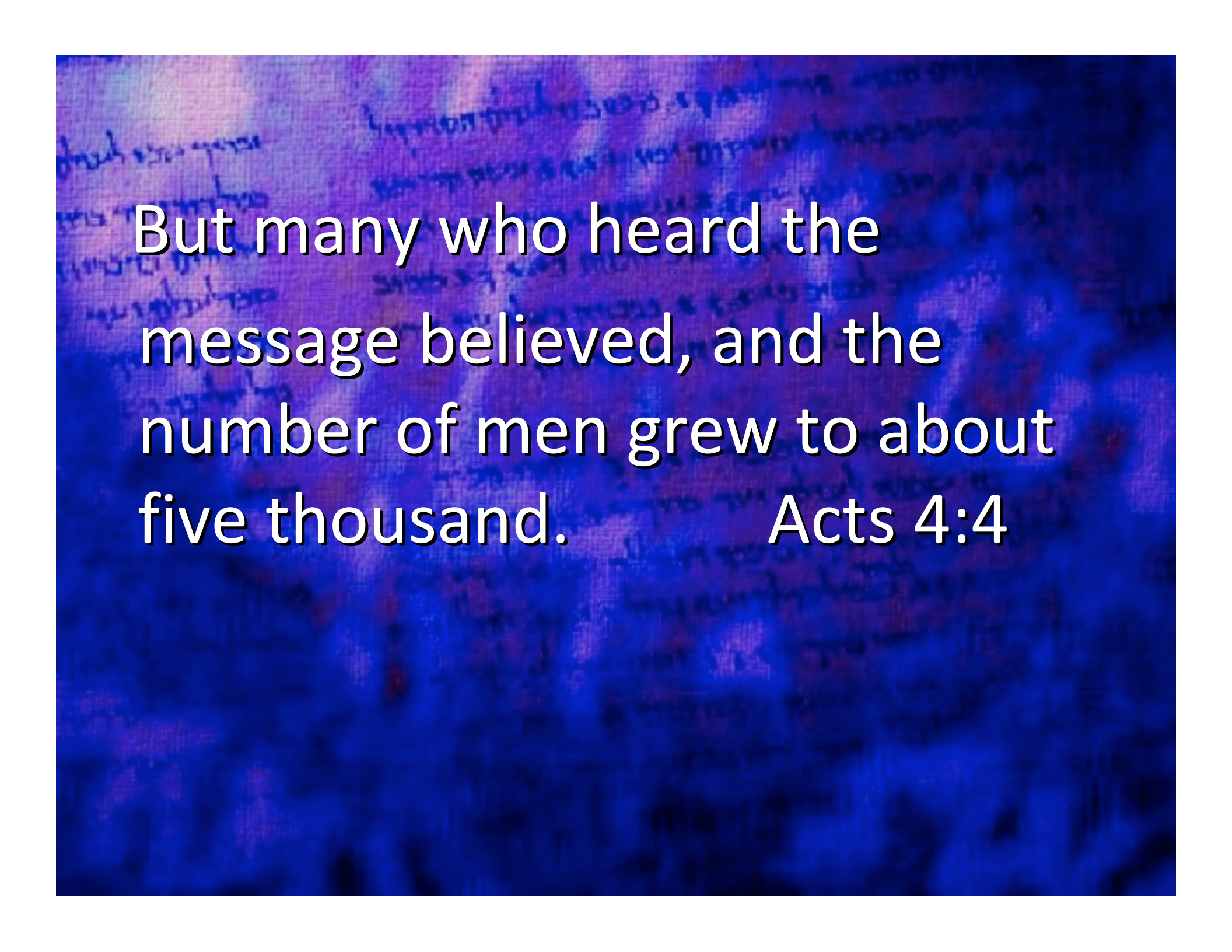
*...FROM EVERY TRIBE AND LANGUAGE
AND PEOPLE AND NATION. -REV. 5:9*

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon.
2 Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. Acts 3:1,2

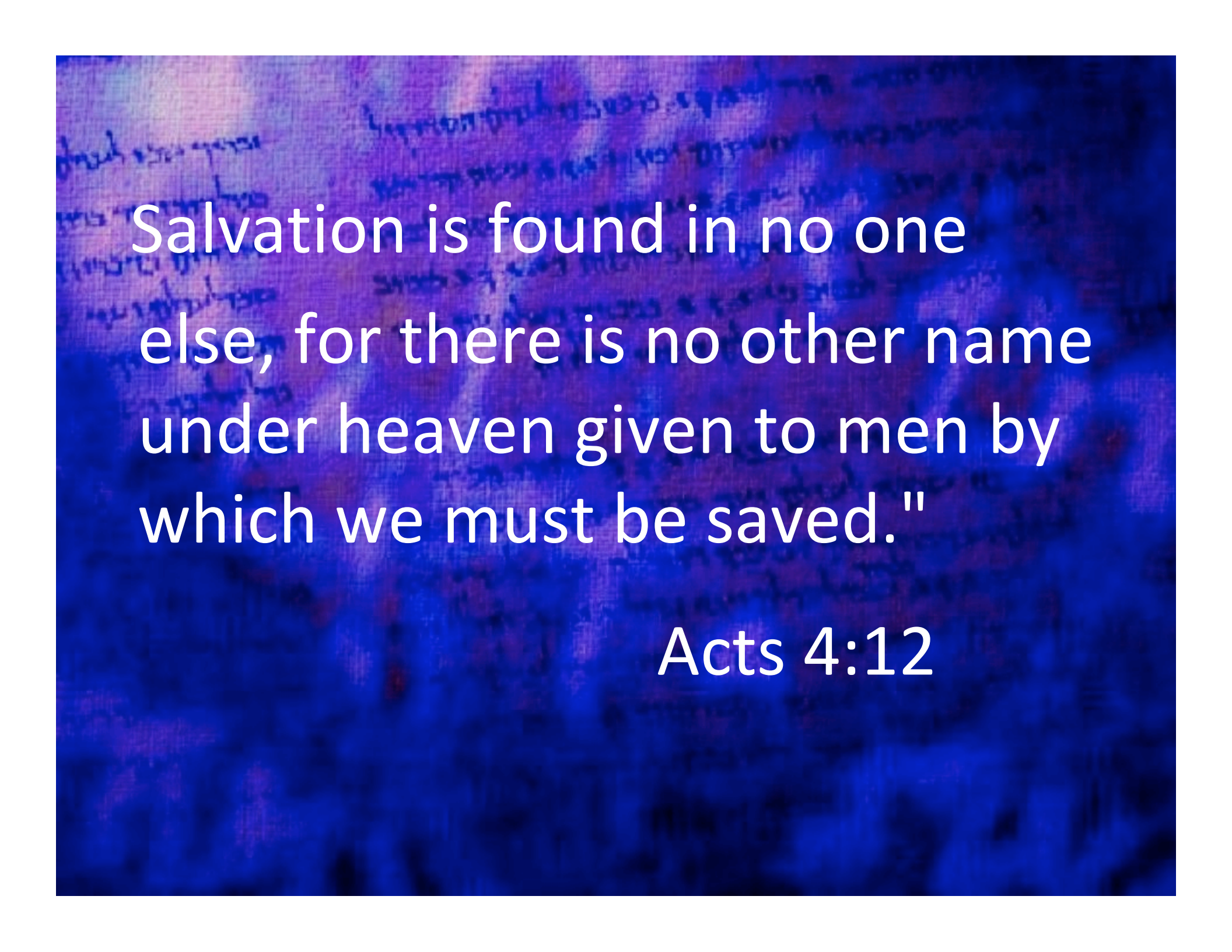
Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."
7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. Acts 3:6-8

9 When all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. Acts 3:9,10

"Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? **13**The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. Acts 3:12,13

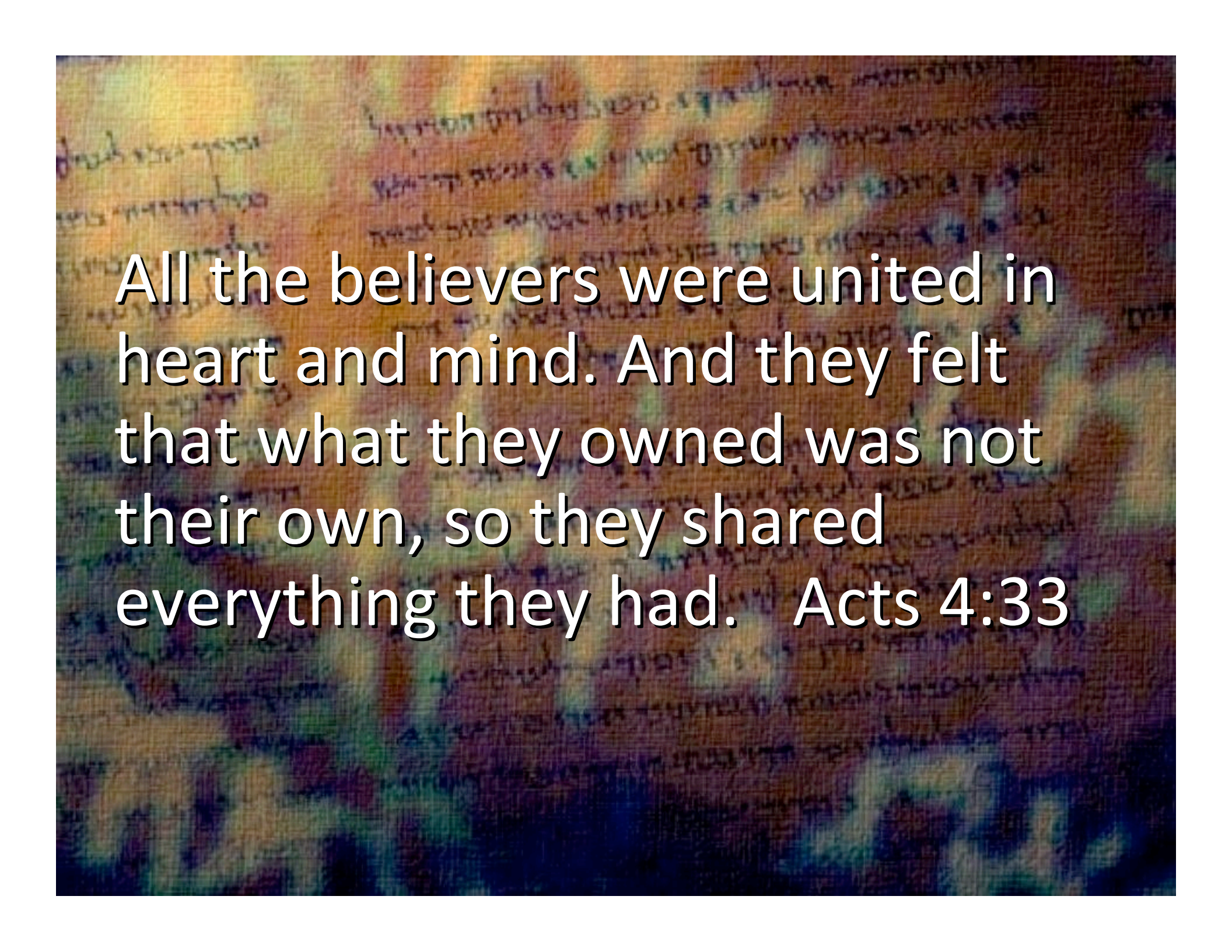


But many who heard the
message believed, and the
number of men grew to about
five thousand. Acts 4:4



Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Acts 4:12



All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. Acts 4:33

We share the oneness of the
Spirit of Christ but have

NO EXPERIENCE

of it in our souls.



Early church experience led
to a new attitude that
included putting their

MONEY WHERE THEIR

MOUTHS WERE

Your love for one another
will prove to the world
that you are
my disciples.

John 13:35



The threat for today's churches:

The willingness to live

WITH DISCONNECTED

lives.

There are some pockets of hope out there where people are looking at church here and there and saying, "Hey that is relevant and it is changing lives." But they are sadly few and far between. So much so, that as a nation, we are rejecting church,

and as a result I think as a nation we are rejecting Jesus.

Not that there is no hope but that we have to do something different. And that difference is authenticity. Authentic transformation worn on the outside for others to see.

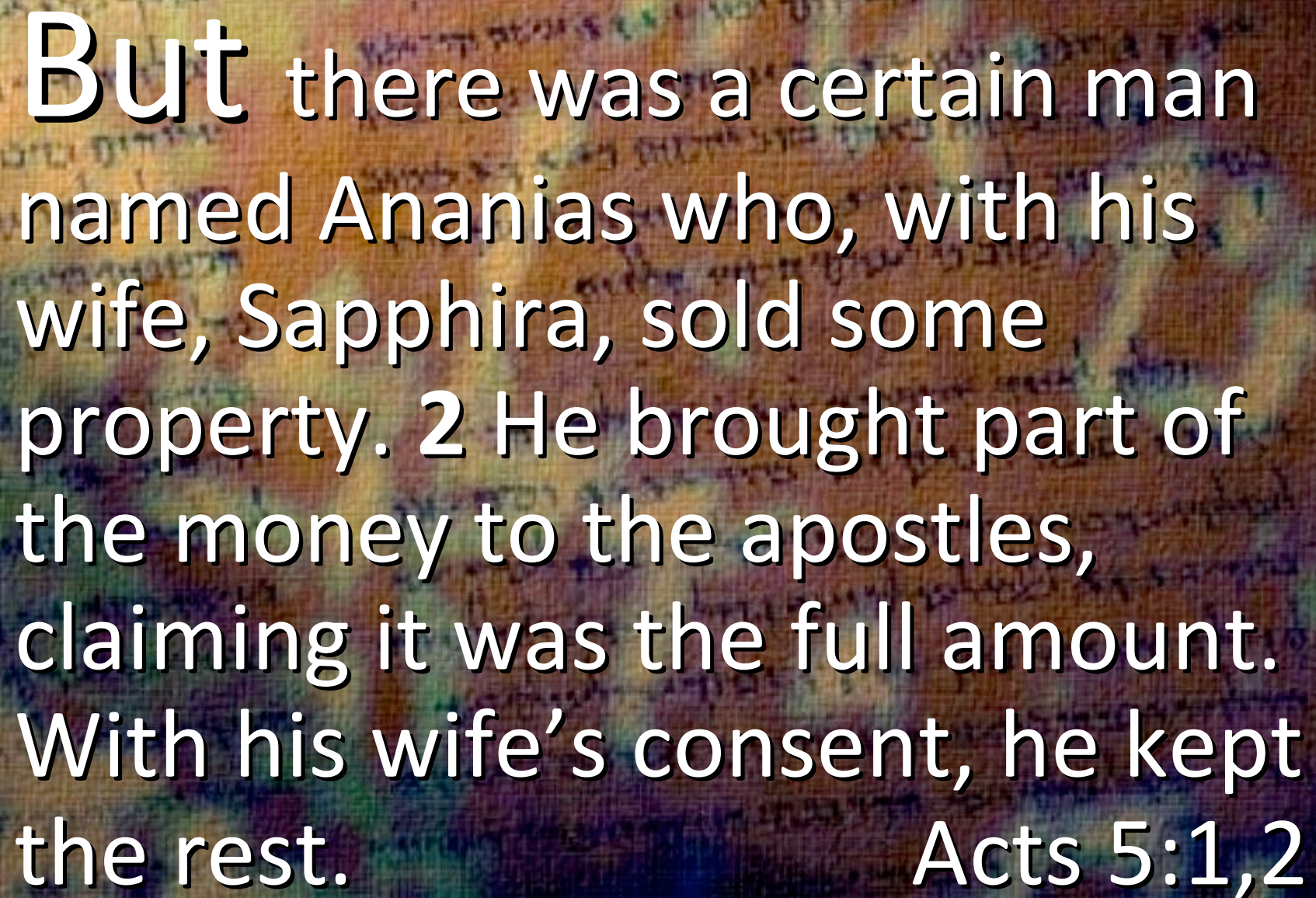
The threat for today's churches:

Viewing church life as a

CONSUMER PRODUCT

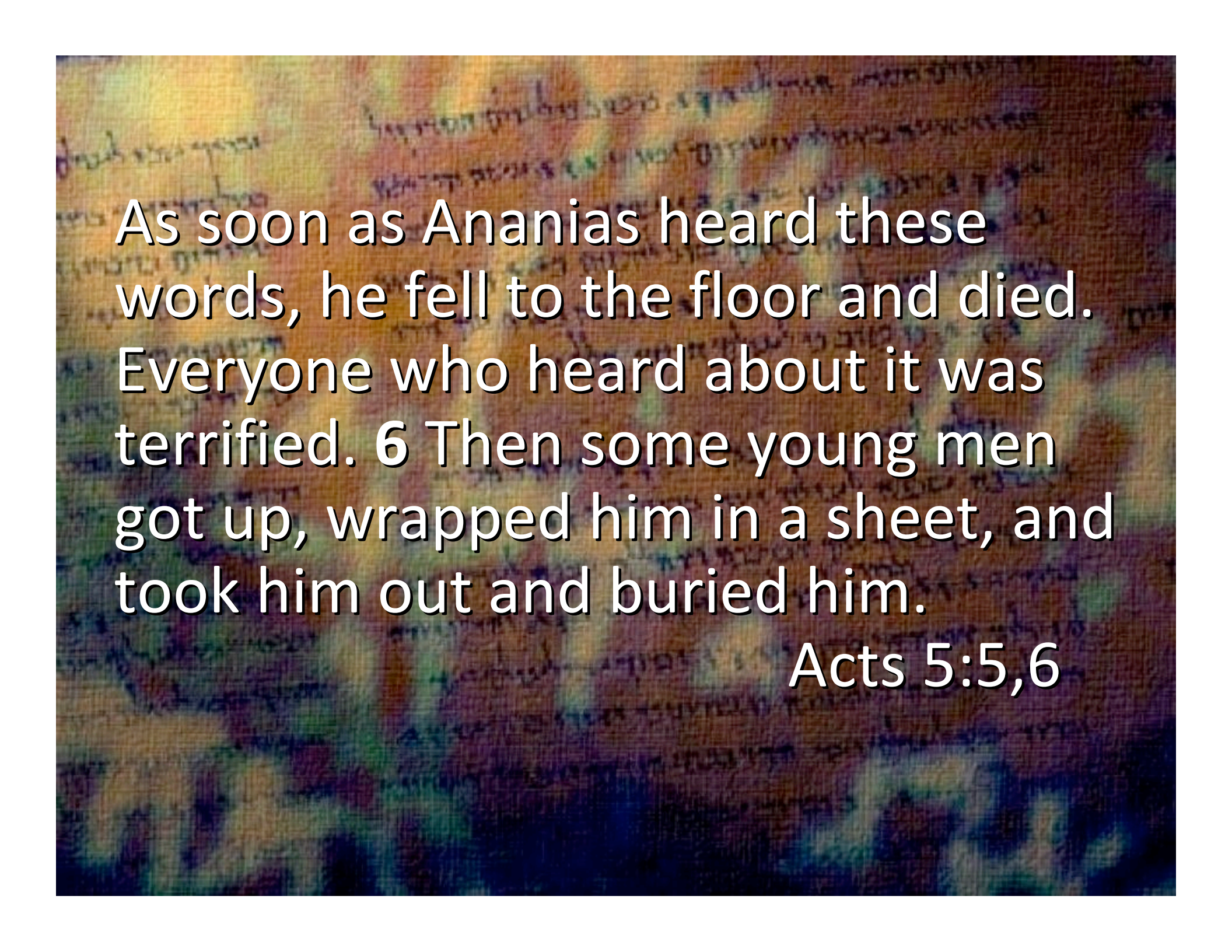


There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales **35** and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. Acts 4:34



But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property. **2** He brought part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife's consent, he kept the rest. Acts 5:1,2

Then Peter said, Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. 4 The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God! Acts 5:3,4



As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified. 6 Then some young men got up, wrapped him in a sheet, and took him out and buried him.

Acts 5:5,6

And all the believers used
to meet together in
Solomon's Colonnade.
13 ...they were highly
regarded by the people.



The threat for today's churches:

**It is the tragic sickness of
the church in any age --**

**TO PRETEND TO BE WHAT
YOU ARE NOT.**



**How does the church today resemble
Annaïas and Sapphira's sin?**

By wearing a mask of

ADEQUACY

**How does the church today resemble
Annaias and Sapphira's sin?**

The result is death through

A DISINGENIOUS


spirit



The apostles testified powerfully
to the resurrection
of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 4:33a



A hand-drawn sketch of a hand in prayer, rendered in brown tones on a yellow background. The hand is positioned on the left side of the image, with fingers slightly curled and palm facing inward. The drawing is done with a textured, sketchy style, possibly using charcoal or a similar medium. The background is a solid yellow color, and the entire scene is framed by a thin, hand-drawn brown border.

and God's great
blessing was
upon them all.

Acts 4:33b







