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When the World Turned Upside Down
Week #7 “Radical Transparency”
Acts 4:36-5:11

當世界顛倒了
第7週: “完全透明”
使徒行傳 4:36-5:11

• There's a moment where the message of Jesus and his followers are beginning to spread, and they are beginning to get a reputation.

當耶穌的跟隨者開始傳播耶穌的信息，他們也開始獲得暴民的聲譽

“These men who have turned the world upside down...” - (Acts 17:6)

徒17:6 那攪亂天下的，也到這裡來了。

• That's not because they were protesting in the streets, or crowding the halls of government. It certainly wasn't because they were demanding their rights. It was that the love and grace of Jesus was so profound in them that it was liberating the oppressed and correcting injustices. They were the new humanity. And because of them, Society was changing.

那不是因為他們在街上抗議或擁擠大廳政府，不是因為他們在要求自己的權利。耶穌的愛與恩典釋放了壓迫並糾正不公正現象。他們是新人類，由於這些原因，社會正在發生變化。

• There's a perspective that grows IN the church. • There's an attitude that becomes pervasive IN the church. And It's what is IN the church that keeps it from actually BEING the kind of church that turns the world upside down.

教會中有一種成長的觀點。教會中瀰漫著一種態度。正是教會中的本質使它實際上無法成為那種使世界顛倒的教會。

Acts 4:36-37 36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, 37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. Acts 5:1-11 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 2 and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God." 5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. 6 The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him. 7 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." 9 But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." 10 Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried

her beside her husband. 11 And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

4:36 有一個利未人、生在居比路、名叫約瑟、使徒稱他為巴拿巴。(巴拿巴翻出來、就是勸慰子)

4:37 他有田地、也賣了、把價銀拿來、放在使徒腳前。

5:1 有一個人、名叫亞拿尼亞、同他的妻子撒非喇、賣了田產。

5:2 把價銀私自留下幾分、他的妻子也知道、其餘的幾分、拿來放在使徒腳前。

5:3 彼得說、亞拿尼亞為甚麼撒但充滿了你的心、叫你欺哄聖靈、把田地的價銀私自留下幾分呢。

5:4 田地還沒有賣、不是你自己的麼。既賣了、價銀不是你作主麼。你怎麼心裡起這意念呢。你不是欺哄人、是欺哄神了。

5:5 亞拿尼亞聽見這話、就仆倒斷了氣。聽見的人都甚懼怕。

5:6 有些少年人起來、把他包裹抬出去埋葬了。

5:7 約過了三小時、他的妻子進來、還不知道這事。

5:8 彼得對他說、你告訴我、你們賣田地的價銀、就是這些麼。他說、就是這些。

5:9 彼得說、你們為甚麼同心試探主的靈呢。埋葬你丈夫之人的腳、已到門口、他們也要把你抬出去。

5:10 婦人立刻仆倒在彼得腳前、斷了氣。那些少年人進來、見他已經死了、就抬出去、埋在他丈夫旁邊。

5:11 全教會、和聽見這事的人、都甚懼怕。

• Is it a story of judgement, and instant consequence?

這是一個判斷和即時報應的故事嗎？

• Some commentaries attempt to dismiss... Some scholars try to

get God off the hook. "It's a just a legend."

一些學者試圖駁回..試圖替上帝脫套-“這只是一個傳奇故事。

• How does this story exist in the context of a group of people who were preaching that God was a forgiving God? How does this story exist in a community of people who were experiencing and extending God's grace?

在一群宣揚上帝是寬恕上帝的人的背景中，這個故事如何存在？這個故事在經歷和擴展上帝恩典的人們社區中如何存在？

• So let's clear up a few things.

讓我們釐清一些事情。

• **First, this is the New Testament, and someone dies.**

首先，這是新約聖經，有人去世了。

• Sometimes you'll hear people talk about the Bible like it has two parts: the bloody, violent Old Testament part in which God randomly takes people out for all kinds of reasons, and then the New Testament part in which God suddenly gets nicer because of Jesus and nobody dies.

有時您會聽到人們談論聖經，就像它有两个部分：血腥暴力的舊約部分，其中上帝出于各种原因將人們擊殺；然後是新約部分，其中上帝由突然變得更好因為耶穌的緣故，沒有人死。

• The truth is, there's a fair bit of death in the New Testament.

事實是，《新約》中也有相當多的死亡事件。

• And there's a ton of love and grace and generosity in the Old Testament. So let's move past those simplistic categories.

• 在舊約中有很多愛，恩典和慷慨。因此，讓我們超越那些簡單的類別。

• The Bible is much more complex, because life is much more complex.

聖經要復雜得多，因為生命很復雜。

- **Second, when we read this story, we're reading a story written by an actual human being reflecting how he saw the world.**

其次，当我们读到这个故事时，我们正在读的是一个真实的人所写的故事，反映了他如何看待世界

- Remember, this story was written in the first century.

People had a much more mythical worldview. 请记住，这个故事写于一世纪人们有神话般的世界观。

- Volcanoes erupt because the gods are upset, storms come because of conflict between goddesses, and crops don't grow because of divine displeasure. This story was written roughly 1,400 years before the scientific revolution. Data and evidence and proof were not the primary lens through which people saw the world.

火山爆发是由于众神沮丧，暴风雨是由于女神之间的冲突而来，庄稼因神圣的不悦而无法生长。这个故事写在科学革命之前大约1400年。数据，证据和证明并不是人们看待世界的主要视角。

- So there's this tendency to dismiss this as myth, because people just thought differently back then.

因此，人们那时的想法不一样，将這個故事视为神话。

- Luke's storytelling here is an excellent example of how people see the world.

•路加的故事是當時的人们如何看世界的一个很好的例子。

- The only explanation for a story like this one being included is that there must be something critical found within it that defines who we are as the church.

这样一个故事被納入聖經的唯一解释是，其中必有关键的定义我们是谁的因素。

- What is the lesson and what could this possibly mean for us? 這因素是什麼，这对我们可能意味着什么？

- Every now and then, through the book of Acts, Luke, the author, takes a step back and describes this community of faith. 作者路加不時地通過使徒行傳，描述一種信仰社區團體。

- For example,

- they held to the apostles teaching.
- they believed certain things to be true, about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
- they had this deep, meaningful, life together.
- They didn't just role in and listen to a message a couple of times a month.
- They were deeply committed to living out the gospel together.
- Or there was commitment to prayer and worship.
- They gathered to pray, and, to sing songs of praise to God together.

- 他们坚持使徒的教导。

- 他们相信关于耶稣的生命，死亡和复活的事情是真的。

- 他们在一起过着深刻，有意义的生活。不只是湊熱鬧，每个月听两次道。

- 他们坚定地致力于一起活出福音。

- 委身祷告和敬拜。

- 他们聚集在一起祈祷，并一起唱詩赞美神。

- There are several of these things repeated throughout the history of the early church. They were radical about their generosity.

在早期教会的整个历史中，有几件事重复发生。他们非常慷慨

- Those who were most vulnerable were taken care of - and that was, and is, a stunning sign of God at work.

- 最弱勢的族群得到了照顧-是上帝在動工的惊人迹象。
 - Luke wants us to know that the resurrection led to the formation of a community of generous and honest people who gave themselves to the well-being of each other, doing whatever they needed to do to make sure everyone had their needs met.
 - 路加想讓我們知道，復活帶出一個慷慨而誠實的社區，這些人互惠互利，竭盡所能確保每個人的需求都能被滿足。
 - They were highly aware of the divine presence in their midst, leading them and convicting them and giving them hope that a better world really is possible, right here and right now when we all do our part.
- 他們強烈地意識到他們中間神的神聖同在，帶領他們，責備他們，並給他們盼望-當我們都在儘自己的本分時，就在此時此刻，確實有可能建立一個更美好的世界。

The grace of God doesn't make us fortunate receivers, it makes us generous givers.

上帝的恩典並不是使我們成為幸運的接受者，而是使我們變得慷慨的施予者。

- The grace of God uproots the most deeply rooted form of idolatry in the human heart - the idolatry of stuff.
- 上帝的恩典將人心中最根深蒂固的偶像崇拜形式徹底根除-物質的偶像，世界的偶像。
- According to Luke, one of the most direct results of the grace of God at work is people taking care of each other's material needs.
- 路加認為，上帝恩典在工作中最直接的結果之一就是人們會照顧彼此的物質需求。
- Grace to Luke is not an abstract theological concept but a reality that leads people to take action on behalf of each other. Grace has implications. Grace leads you somewhere. Grace creates a human connection and community, one grounded in

real needs being met by real people in real ways.

對路加來說恩點給不是一個抽象的神學概念，而是一個使得人們為彼此的需要採取行實際。恩典具有影響。恩典將您帶到某個地方。恩典建立了人與人之間的聯繫，建立了社區，恩典的基礎是真實的人們用實際的方式滿足彼此的實際需求。

- Sometimes when people talk about the economy and politics and their convictions about how things should be, what you subtly (and not so subtly) pick up on is their belief that we're each on our own. It's up to us to figure it out and make our way in the world and work hard to get what we need. We are highly individualistic as a culture.
 - 有時候，當人們談論經濟和政治以及他們對事物應該如何表現的信念時，您接受的是他們對我們每個人的獨立主義信念。由我們自己決定在世界上走出自己的道路，並努力獲得自己所需的東西。我們的文化是一種高度個人主義的文化。
 - It's interesting to note that of all the things Luke could tell us about the early church, one of the most important things he wants us to know is that in the early church, you WEREN'T on your own. You were a part of a community.
- 有趣的是，盧克（Luke）可以告訴我們有關早期教會的所有事情，他想讓我們知道的最重要的事情之一是，在早期教會中，您不是一個人。您是社區的一部分。您是超越自我的一部分。

Let's talk about Peter for a moment. 讓我們談論一下彼得

- Why does he unleash on Ananias and Sapphira like he does? Wasn't the church about grace?
- 他為什麼責難亞拿尼亞、撒非喇呢？教會不是出乎恩典的嗎？
- Because Peter has a past. He's the one who denied Jesus. Authenticity is so important to him. What grieves Peter to no end is the dishonesty.
- 因为彼得过去曾經否认耶稣。真實性對他很重要。不誠實使得彼

得傷心不止

Hypocrisy will keep the church from being what it was created to be.

偽善將使教會失去建立教會原意。

- **Hypocrisy is the threat. • Few things will kill the life of a community faster than pretending.**
偽善是威脅。沒有什麼偽裝虛偽能更快破壞一個社區的生活。

- **It's a threat that comes from inside the church, not outside. And, it's a greater threat than any threat that could come from outside the church.**
這是來自教堂內部而不是外部的威脅,而且, 與來自教堂外的任何威脅相比, 這是更大的威脅。

- **Hypocrisy is practicing something on the surface, that isn't true in the heart.**

- **Hypocrisy is putting on a false self.**

- **Hypocrisy is pretending to be something we are not.**

- **Do you see the difference?**

- 偽善是僅做表面功夫, 內心卻不以為然。

- 虛偽是偽裝自己。

- 偽善偽裝成我們所不是。

- **Why do we pretend? The real reason it's there is a deep and existential insecurity about who we are and what we are worth. we pretend to be something we aren't**
為什麼偽善? 真正的原因是我們對自己是誰和我們的價值存在著極深的不安全感,所以我們就偽裝自己。

- **And, ironically, from the inside out, it erodes the very things that can give us what we're looking for. It erodes real community. When we begin to live artificially, when we accept**

behaviors that are clearly pretending to be something we're not, it becomes an unsafe place for people with flaws and struggles and weaknesses. It becomes a quietly judgmental place.

而且, 具有諷刺意味的是, 它從內到外侵蝕了可以為我們提供所需的。它侵蝕了真實的社區。當我們開始人為地生活時, 當我們接受顯然是偽裝的行為時, 對於有缺陷, 掙扎和軟弱的人來說, 這將是一個不安全的場所。它變成一個論斷的場所。

- **It's destructive to the proclamation of Jesus. One of the reasons many of us have struggled in having faith in Christ was the artificial nature of the Christians that we've known. Somewhere there was someone who was pretending, and we knew, and so we doubted the power Jesus. Which ultimately means that hypocrisy will keep the world from turning right side up.**

這對耶穌的宣告具有破壞性。我們中許多人一直難以相信基督的原因之一就是我們所認識的基督徒的人的本性。某處有人做作, 我們知道, 所以我們懷疑耶穌的能力。最終意味著虛偽會阻止世界翻轉。

- **Ananias and Sapphira didn't get the gospel. They were looking for people to validate them. They were wanting the people to give them a sense of meaning. All the wrong sources, all the wrong gods to fill them with meaning. They were using their efforts in this community to find worth.**

亞拿尼亞和撒非拉沒有得到福音。他們正在尋找可以驗證他們的人。他們希望人民給他們一種認定。在錯誤的來源尋求認定。他們正在這個社區中努力尋找自我的價值。

- **that is the OPPOSITE of the gospel. 那與福音正好相反。**

- **Gospel is**

- **It's about authenticity.**

- **It's about transparency.**

- It's about getting real and keeping it real.
- It's a new kind of Christian.
- One who is real and open.
- One who is honest and authentic.
- One who isn't afraid to talk about their failures and mistakes.

- 關於真實性。
- 關於透明度。
- 這是關於變得真實並保持真實。
- 這是一種新生命的基督徒。
- 一個真實而敞開的人。
- 誠實並真實的人。
- 一個不怕談論自己的失敗和錯誤的人。

- Because in that honesty and openness, we experience the gospel, and we open the door for others to join us.

因為在這種誠實和敞開放中，我們體驗了福音，並且我們敞開了大門讓其他人加入我們。

- One of the things I'm most committed to regarding the church is for us to be authentic and transparent. I never want you to have to be someone or something you want, and I'm not going to be someone or something I'm not.

我可以說，關於教會，我最要致力於的事情之一就是讓我們保持真實和透明。我從不希望您成為想要的某人或某物，而我也會成為我不是的某人或某物。

- The only expectation I'll live up to is the one that says we are all living out the gospel together in community with transparency and honesty.

但是我唯一能的期望是，我們在透明和誠實的社區中共同生活在福音之中。

- But it turns out that the real death comes when we hide our brokenness and we pretend to be something we aren't. 真正的死亡是當我們隱藏自己的破碎而假裝不是真實的自我。

- I've never lost respect for someone when they were transparent or honest about their own brokenness. 當他們對自己的破碎透明或誠實時，我從未對對自己的破碎透明或誠實的人失去尊重。

- This Gospel is...

- An invitation to lay down the pretense.
- An invitation to be authentic.
- An invitation to be transparent.
- An invitation to be the kind of church that is PERFECTLY IMPERFECT and turn the world upside down.

這福音是...

- 邀請放下假裝。
- 邀請參加真實。
- 邀請變為透明。
- 邀請成為一點也不完美的教會，卻能將世界顛倒了。

Benediction 祝禱

- May you accept the invitation that this life is extending you.
- May you realize you are already as loved and accepted as you are ever going to be.
- May you extend grace to others in the manner in which you yourself have received it.
- 願您接受這種擴展您的生命的邀請。
- 願您意識到自己已經完全被愛和接受。
- 願您向他人傳自己所得到的恩典的福音。