

Sermon #4

"Some Unusual Math"

~Addition, Subtraction, and Multiplication~

Acts 5-6:7

Introduction: A wonderful prayer and praise service has just finished. God had done such a deep work in the heart of the disciples that they felt led to go sell their property and possessions and "laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need." (4:35)

What takes place next in chapter 5 and 6 ranges from an execution to an explosion. It unfolds before us in the form of some Unusual Math...

Jack wanted to be an accountant, so he went for an aptitude test.

Tester: If I give you two rabbits, and two rabbits, and another two rabbits, how many rabbits have you got?

Jack: SEVEN!

Tester: No. Now listen carefully again. If I give you two rabbits, and two rabbits, and another two rabbits, how many rabbits have you got?

Jack: SEVEN!

Tester: Let's try this another way. If I give you two cans of Coke, and two cans of Coke, and another two cans of Coke, how many cans of Coke have you got?

Jack: SIX.

Tester: Good! Now, if I give you two rabbits, and two rabbits, and another two rabbits, how many rabbits have you got?

Jack: SEVEN!

Tester: How on Earth do you work out that three lots of two rabbits is seven?

Jack: Because I've already got one rabbit at home!

Little Debbie came running into the house after school one day, shouting, "Daddy! Daddy! I got a 100 in school today!" "That's great, Sweetheart," said her daddy. "Come in the living room and tell me about it." "Well," began the confession, "I got 50 in spelling, 30 in math, and 20 in science!"

Here in Acts 5 the early church experienced some unusual math. They learned, as it related to God's work, addition, subtraction and multiplication.

Let's look at the early church's unusual math by taking a look at the:

Outline

1. Execution... Subtraction-Ananias & Sapphira

A) *The Removal of a Serious Problem*

B) *The Release of a Supernatural Power*

2. Excommunication... Addition-People & Persecution

A) *Their Dedication to the Cause*

B) *Their Jubilation for the Cause*

3. Explosion... Multiplication-Acts 6:1-7

A) *A Grievous Situation*

B) *A Glorious Solution*