

A Warning About Secret Sins

Acts 5:1-11

By Dr. Joe K. Taylor, SRBC Senior Pastor, Father's Day, June 18, 2023

Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com. • All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted.

God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.

• Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets.

A. The Biblical Text (Acts 4:32 - 5:11)

Acts 5:1-11, NLT -¹ 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. ³ 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!" ⁵ 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. ⁷ About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸ Peter asked her, "Was this the price you and your husband received for your land?" "Yes," she replied, "that was the price." ⁹ And Peter said, "How could the two of you even think of conspiring to test the Spirit of the Lord like this? The young men who buried your husband are just outside the door, and they will carry you out, too." ¹⁰ Instantly, she fell to the floor and died. When the young men came in and saw that she was dead, they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹ Great fear gripped the entire church and everyone else who heard what had happened.

B. The Warning About Secret Sins

1. Secret Sins are Never Secret.

Peter knew • The church found out • God knew all along.

Proverbs 5:21, NIV84 -²¹ For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths.

"Secret sin on Earth is an open scandal in heaven."

- Lewis Sperry Chafer

2. Secret Sins Affects Everyone Around You.

You • Family • Church • Friends • Lost People.

1 Corinthians 5:6 - 7, ESV -⁶ Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷ Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

3. God's Judgment on Secret Sins are Inevitable but Avoidable.

This passage is not about money—it's about secret sins.

Hebrews 12:5- 6, NIV84 -⁵ And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶ because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

1 John 1:9, ESV -⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

C. The Deliverance from Secret Sins

Get honest • Get help • Get a Higher Power named Jesus • Get a healthy support system

- 1. An Epiphany** You must realize you're headed the wrong way.
- 2. Admission** You will need God's power to beat this.
- 3. Access** The *instrument* of your sin must be objectively eliminated.
- 4. Accountability** You must have objective accountability.
- 5. Ambition** You must have specific motivation to stay in the fight.
- 6. Amends** You must minister to those who have been hurt by your sin.