

Series: The Acts of the Apostles: From Jerusalem

Text: Acts 4:32-5:11

HI: Jesus is deadly serious about his people's witness.

Title: *Wake-Up Call*

Hook: Morning person

Date: 10.23.22

Purpose: To equip Christ's church in the fear of the Lord through the vision of his great grace.

FCF: Like Ananias and Sapphira, we are all tempted toward deceit and hypocrisy. God's great grace meets us here, as he provides for his people's needs and guards his people's witness.

COR: Hypocrisy in the ranks of those associated with God's people has been one of the great scourges of church history. In this stark story, we see that the Lord is not OK with it.

Witness of Christ [WC*]: As we see God's justice swiftly punish sin, we are confronted by the grace of Jesus, who bore the weight of divine judgment on the cross. "Look what the Lord did to Ananias and Sapphira!" *No—Look what Jesus did for you.*

Apologetic: If you think Christian hypocrisy is a massive issue, so does Jesus. It's his name and reputation that falls into disrepute when people falsely claim allegiance to him.

Form: Inductive

Outline:

I. The Lord authors the unity of his witnesses. (4:32-37)

A. This is a story of shared faith. (32, 34-35)

B. This is a testimony of great grace. (33, 36-37)

II. The Lord guards the integrity of his church. (5:1-11)

A. The fraud was birthed in Hell. (1-3)

B. The sin was deceit and hypocrisy. (3-4, 8-9)

C. The punishment fit the crime. (5, 10)

D. The fear of the Lord guides the church. (5, 11)

Main Idea:

Subject: Why did the Lord so fiercely guard the integrity of his people?

Complement: Because the church carries on the witness of the risen Jesus.

Exegetical Idea: The Lord fiercely guards his people's integrity because the church would carry on the witness of Jesus in the world.

Theological Idea: The Lord protects his people's unity to position them as witnesses.

Homiletical Idea: Jesus is deadly serious about his people's witness.

Introduction:

Alarm Clock [NOISE]

READ Acts 4:32-5:11

³² Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.

³³ And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold

³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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 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.

[This is the Word of God; *Thanks be to God*]

RE-READ Acts 4:32-35

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I. The Lord authors the unity of his witnesses. (4:32-37)

RE-READ Acts 5:1-6

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II. The Lord guards the integrity of his church. (5:1-11)

R.C. Sproul *The Holiness of God*

"every sin is an act of cosmic treason, a futile attempt to dethrone God in His sovereign authority."

Ekklesia = "Church"

HI: Jesus is deadly serious about his people's witness.