

“Ananias and Sapphira”

Acts 5:1-16

Acts: The Unstoppable Gospel

Intro: Be bold in sharing the gospel

Matthew 3:16-17 – “After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, ¹⁷and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, ‘This is My beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.’”

Last week Pastor Kenton preached a message titled “A Generous Church”.

Acts 4:32-37 – “And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul. And not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. ³³And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. ³⁴For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales ³⁵and lay them at the apostles’ feet and they would be distributed to each as any had need. ³⁶Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement). ³⁷and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.”

Numbers 18:20 – “Then the LORD said to Aaron, ‘You shall have no inheritance in their land nor own any portion among them; I am your portion and your inheritance among the sons of Israel.’”

Philippians 4:15 – “You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone.”

Philippians 4:17 – “Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek the profit which increases to your account.”

Satan used believers within the church to hinder the Lord’s work.

We see four things happen...

1. Ananias and Sapphira lied

Acts 5:1-2 ¹But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, ²and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife’s full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles’ feet.

2. Ananias and Sapphira were found out

Acts 5:3-4 – “But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? ⁴While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.’”

Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Genesis 1:2b – “The Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.”

Genesis 1:26a – “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea...’”

3. Ananias and Sapphira were killed

Acts 5:5-6 – “And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it. ⁶The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.”

John 12:6 – “Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.”

Acts 5:7-11 – “Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸And Peter responded to her, ‘Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?’ And she said, ‘Yes, that was the price.’ ⁹Then Peter said to her, ‘Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as well.’ ¹⁰And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out, and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.”

2 Corinthians 9:7 – “Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

1 Corinthians 11:30 – “For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.”

1 Corinthians 5:4-5 – “In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, ⁵I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

4. The church testified

Acts 5:11-16 – “And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things. ¹²At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s portico. ¹³But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number, ¹⁵to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. ¹⁶Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.

Matthew 9:21 – “For she was saying to herself, ‘If I only touch His garment, I will get well.’”

James 5:14 – “Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.”

Takeaways

1. **Be honest**
2. **Be holy**
3. **Trust the Holy Spirit**
4. **Trust God’s grace**

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

1. What does this story teach us about God’s view of hypocrisy and lying within the church?
2. What is the proper motivation for doing good works in the church?
3. In what ways might we be tempted to present ourselves as more spiritual than we are?
4. How can we grow deeper in reverent fear of God in our daily lives?
5. How does this passage emphasize the importance of honesty in the church community?