

Holy, Holy, Holy

Acts 5:1-11

What is Luke telling us? What insights do we need to gain from hearing and knowing this story?

The new Christian community was a place of holiness.

2 Samuel 6:6-7 Uzzah reached out to the ark of God and took hold of it because the oxen had stumbled. **7** Then the Lord's anger burned against Uzzah, and God struck him dead on the spot for his irreverence, and he died there next to the ark of God.

Leviticus 10:1-2 Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu each took his own firepan, put fire in it, placed incense on it, and presented unauthorized fire before the Lord, which he had not commanded them to do. **2** Then fire came from the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.

Leviticus 16:2 The Lord said to Moses, "Tell your brother Aaron that he may not come whenever he wants into the holy place behind the curtain in front of the mercy seat on the ark or else he will die, because I appear in the cloud above the mercy seat. (There was very specific order and precautions which must be taken concerning the temple.)

Joshua 7:11 Israel has sinned. They have violated my covenant that I appointed for them. They have taken some of what was set apart. They have stolen, deceived, and put those things with their own belongings. (Achan loses his life).

2 Chronicles 26:16-18 But when he became strong, he grew arrogant, and it led to his own destruction. He acted unfaithfully against the Lord his God by going into the Lord's sanctuary to burn incense on the incense altar. **17** The priest Azariah, along with eighty brave priests of the Lord, went in after him. **18** They took their stand against King Uzziah and said, "Uzziah, you have no right to offer incense to the Lord—only the consecrated priests, the descendants of Aaron, have the right to offer incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have acted unfaithfully! You will not receive honor from the Lord God." (King Uzziah developed a skin disease (leprosy) which lasted until his death).

In all instances individuals must deal with the consequences of their sin relating to both temple and community.

Maturing in our faith is moving to a place of full acceptance that God is right and just. It is unhealthy and not whole to pick and choose the parts of God that we deem acceptable.

- There have been amazing moments of healing.
- Jesus followers demonstrating courage in their faith in the face of opposition.
- Thousands are giving their lives to King Jesus.
- The community of Jesus people is overflowing with generosity.

Grace is not the absence of consequences but the freedom to love God and people over things.

Remember: Jesus is righting all wrongs and dealing with those who twist and manipulate the world around them.

Luke 4:12 And Jesus answered him, "It is said: **Do not test the Lord your God.**"

Galatians 6:7 Don't be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a person sows he will also reap,

Side Note: Humanities opportunity for repentance is the norm.

Holiness in the Kingdom is not an optional extra.

The issue is lying.

Does our culture even understand the pursuit of truth-telling? We spin everything to fit our own agenda.

At this stage in salvation history, this is a WARNING!

vs. 3-4, A & S were under no obligation to give anything at all. They didn't have to sell their property. Even when selling they did not have to give all of the proceeds away. They could have divided it however they pleased.

Again, the issue is lying.

The supporting themes are:

- Creating an appearance of generosity
- Wanting to be publicly recognized
- Valuing what the world values (honor).
- All without humility and sacrifice.

Zechariah 8:16-17 These are the things you must do: Speak truth to one another; make true and sound decisions within your city gates. **17** Do not plot evil in your hearts against your neighbor, and do not love perjury, for I hate all this"—this is the Lord's declaration.

Lying -> misuses and abuses the highest faculty we possess. As image bearers we were created to declare the goodness of God. God is truth. To be a truth teller is to stand at the intersection of heaven and earth.

Lying is an act intended to separate. It is an attempt to twist earth to serve self.

Evil must be confronted.

What is the story arc concerning the confrontation of evil?

Jesus	tempted	triumphed (Luke 3:22, 4:1)
Judas		failed (Luke 22:3)
Peter		restored (Luke 22:31)
Ananias & Sapphira		failed

Judas (Acts 1:18)

Ananias & Sapphira (Acts 5:5, 10)

- Satan filled your heart.
- Motivated by money leading to deception.
- Negative use of land.

The scheme of the evil one is to infiltrate the community of faith with hypocrisy.

Luke 16:14-15 The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and scoffing at him. **15** And he told them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the sight of others, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly admired by people is revolting in God's sight.

Falsehood pays the price

vs. 10, 5, 2, 4:37 -> at the apostles feet (Peter)

Don't allow deceit to separate God's family.

As we wait for Jesus' return let's not recycle bad habits.

Compare Barnabas to Ananias & Sapphira

Proverbs 11:28 Anyone trusting in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like foliage.

Question: In my daily living am I more concerned with the thoughts and opinions of others or of God? Does my perspective of resources (things) need to be adjusted? How do I continue to cultivate in me a heart of integrity and truth telling? Am I prepared for the deceit and the schemes of the evil one? What is in place that we help me overcome the enormous pull of temptation?