



Acts

Amplifying Hope | September 10, 2023

Topic: Obey God, Not Men

Scripture: Acts 5:1-42

Summary: The first church experienced a powerful working of the Spirit with unique experiences, some semi-private and others very public. People were supernaturally healed. Disciples were miraculously released from prison. Individuals were being saved daily. Crowds were growing larger. Religious leaders were becoming jealous. And on multiple occasions public demonstrations of faith and courage! Two of these experiences are recorded in Acts 5; one of disobedience and the other of obedience. Both impacting believers and the church then and now. The first deals with offerings and the second with opposition. Each stands in stark contrast to the other. The first encounter is with a now infamous couple who lied to the Holy Spirit about their offerings and to the disciples in a conspiracy to deceive. The second is the apostles response in words and actions to the cease and desist order of the high priest and the council. One was semi private in the church and the other was public in the community. One resulted in death and burial and the other in “words of this Life” being preached and taught every day in the Temple and from house to house. The results: “Multitudes of believers both men and women were added to the Lord.” The disobedience with death and burial led to fear and the other led to rejoicing. Looking back we can see the great contrast between obedience and disobedience! What do you see looking at your life today? Obedience or disobedience?

1. Obedience to God Requires Honesty (Acts 5:1-26)

- Read Acts 5:1-26
- I want it to be a willing gift, not one given grudgingly.

2 Corinthians 9:5-8 NLT

6 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. 7 You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." 8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

Glory is given to God when the financial needs of others, especially believers, are met through the giving of believers. Your financial gift lightens the load of responsibility and leads others to give glory to God.

2. We must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:27-39)

- Read Acts 5:27-39

3. Obeying God may Lead to Opposition, Suffering, & Rejoicing (Acts 5:40–41)

- Read Acts 5:40-41

4. Obedience to God is Expressed in Communicating that Jesus is the Christ Everyday, Everywhere (Acts 5:42)

- Read Acts 5:42

Life Application Questions

1. Do you have a specific memory of a time when you were disobedient? What did it cost you?
2. Do you have a specific memory of a time when you were obedient? What were the costs/ blessings?
3. What does the Bible teach about tithing/giving? Are you being obedient or disobedient in what the Bible teaches about giving and managing/stewarding the financial resources God has entrusted to you?
4. What lessons can we learn and apply from the story of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5? Describe your journey in tithing/giving.

5. What does the Bible teach about telling others the message of salvation in Jesus (Words of Life)? Are you being obedient or disobedient in what the Bible teaches about telling others the message of salvation in Jesus (Words of life) God has entrusted to you?
6. Have you experienced the challenge of choosing to obey man's commands which were contrary to God's commands or God's clear command? What did you do? What were the results? What can you learn and apply from the example of the apostles in Acts 5?
7. PRAY: Ask the Lord to strengthen your resolve to live in daily obedience to the Lord in all areas of your life. Ask for the Lord to strengthen our church with obedient believers.