

Unstoppable Kingdom
Locally: The Attack from Within
Acts 5:1-16

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 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. 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? 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." When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him. After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." 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." 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. And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things. Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. Acts 5:1-16

Main Idea: Satan's attacks are brought to light & God's Kingdom remains unstoppable.

There are 3 important truths highlighted in Acts 5:1-16

I. Satan's Strategy is Subtle (vv1-10)

Hypocrisy from Hypocrites: "actors" and "stage performers"

There is a difference between hypocrisy and imperfection. Ananias and Sapphira were deliberately deceiving those around them so they could look spiritual, holy and generous, but in their hearts they were far from God.

"You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me." Matthew 15:7-8

"Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap." Galatians 6:7

"And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account." Hebrews 4:13

"But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.'" 1 Samuel 16:7

II. God's Grace is Perfect

"And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things." Acts 5:11

The Result: *The whole church did a deep examination of their hearts before God & realized what was truly taking place: This is a move of God & I want to be a part of it!*

"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24

III. God's Power is Unstoppable

"Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed." Acts 5:12-16

God's kingdom continues to advance despite attacks from outside and within.

Acts 2:41 - *"there were added that day about three thousand souls"*

2:47 - *"And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."*

4:4 - *"But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand."*

And now Acts 5:14 - *"And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women"*

There is no one like our God and He cannot be stopped.

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good" Genesis 50:20

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Romans 8:31

Invitation:

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities

- *The Bible Exposition Commentary – Warren Wiersbe (1996)*
- *ESV Study Bible – Crossway (2008)*
- *New American Commentary - Acts – John Polhill (1992)*
- *Acts: The Church Afire - R.K. Hughes (1996)*
- *The Message of Acts: The Spirit, the Church, & the World - John Stott (1994)*
- *Acts - K.O. Gangel (1998)*
- *The Acts of the Apostles - William Barclay (1976)*
- *Acts: Bible Study Commentary - F.F. Bruce (2017)*
- *Acts for Everyone Pt 1 - Chapters 1-12 - N.T. Wright (2008)*