

# LYING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT – ANANIAS & SAPPHIRA -- ACTS 5:1-11

## OBSERVATION

## INTERPRETATION

## APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking, John Stott, Vernon McGee, Warren Wiersbe and others.

### Acts 5 - Ananias and Sapphira

<sup>1</sup> But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. <sup>2</sup> And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. <sup>3</sup> <sup>a</sup> But Peter said, "Ananias, why has <sup>b</sup> Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? <sup>4</sup> "While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." <sup>5</sup> Then Ananias, hearing these words, <sup>c</sup> fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. <sup>6</sup> And the young men arose and <sup>d</sup> wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. <sup>7</sup> Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. <sup>8</sup> And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." <sup>9</sup> Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together <sup>e</sup> to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." <sup>10</sup> <sup>f</sup> Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. <sup>11</sup> <sup>g</sup> So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

The background surrounding this incident – Acts 4:32-37

\*Spirit of unity, unselfishness, giving, concern, and encouragement

We have here a story of lying!

The Bible has much to say about lying!

Proverbs:

6:17 – “a lying tongue” – one of the seven things the Lord hates

6:19 – “a false witness who speaks lies”

12:5 – “counsels of the wicked are deceit”

12:17 – “a false witness (shows) deceit”

12:19 – “a lying tongue is but for a moment”

12:22 – “lying lips are abomination to the Lord”

13:5 – “a righteous man hates lying”

14:5 – “a faithful witness will not lie; but a false witness will utter lies”

14:25 – “a true witness delivers souls: but a deceitful witness speaks lies”

19:5 – “a false witness shall not be unpunished

(19:9) - he that speaks lies shall not escape”

21:6 – “the getting of treasures by a lying tongue is vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death”

21:28 – “a false witness shall perish”

24:28 – “deceive not with thy lips”

26:28 – “a lying tongue hates those that are afflicted by it”

29:12 – “If a ruler harkens to lies, all his servants are wicked”

30:6, 8 – “remove far from me vanity and lies”

In other places:

Matthew 15:19 – “false witness” (in our hearts)

Mark 7:22 – “deceit” (in our hearts)

Ephesians 4:25 – “Therefore putting away lying”

Colossians 3:9 – “Do not lie to one another”

1 Timothy 1:10 – “for liars”

Revelation 21:8 – “all liars”

Revelation 22:15 – “whosoever loves and makes a lie”

### “THE DANGER OF LYING” - Acts 5:1-11

God will not overlook the sin of lying! We are taught here that He will deal with it!

In the previous chapter, we saw Satan’s first tactic to destroy the church was by force from without. Here, we see his second attempt was to destroy the church from within.

In today’s study, we will that the corrective work is clearly that of Divine judgment.

Understanding this, it seems we can see at least three valuable lessons:

1. The gravity of the sin of Ananias and Sapphira. Peter stresses the lie was not again man, but against the Holy Spirit, against God.
2. The importance, even the sacredness of the human conscience. Cf. Acts 24:16
3. This incident teaches us the necessity of church discipline. Churches are wise if they follow the successive stages taught by Jesus. Cf. Mt. 18:15-20

## LYING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT – ANANIAS & SAPPHIRA -- ACTS 5:1-11

### OBSERVATION

#### THE RESPONSE OF ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA – Acts 5:1-2

*Act 5:1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession.*

*Act 5:2 And he kept back part of the proceeds,*

*his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

#### THE REBUKE OF PETER – Acts 5:3-4

*Act 5:3 But Peter said, "Ananias,*

*why has Satan*

*filled your heart*

*to lie to the Holy Spirit and*

*keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?*

*Act 5:4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."*

### INTERPRETATION

THE RESPONSE OF ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA – Acts 5:1-2  
"Ananias" (Hana-nee- us)- translated in the Old Testament  
"Hananiah," meaning "Jehovah is gracious"

v. 1 "But a certain man" - A CONTRAST of Barnabas – Greek -  
"de" - "but" A great contrast – a story of lying!

v. 2 "his wife also being aware of it - An AGREEMENT made in private – Acts 5:2- "Don't tell anyone!" - cf - Joshua 7:19-26 – Achan  
Greek – "ktema" - "piece of property"- "a piece of property" – "a landed field, piece of ground" - without the article indicates they had more land

v. 3 "Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?" - THE REBUKE OF PETER – Acts 5:3-4

v. 3 "why has Satan"? - As to the SOURCE – Satan – John 8:44; Luke 22:3; John 13:2,- The first danger to the church came from outside; the second from within.

v. 3 "filled your heart" - implies he permitted Satan to possess his heart – in this manner!

v. 3 "to lie to the Holy Spirit" - As to their ACCOUNTABILITY to God. They lied to the Holy Spirit – God. With accusative case – means "to deceive". Dative case – means "to lie"

v. 3 "keep back part ( of the price )" – "to turn one's back on" – poetic. - Titus 2:10 – "misappropriating, embezzling, pilfering-put aside for one's self, keep back"

v. 3 "keep back part of the price of the land for yourself" - As to the NATURE of their sin - Not found in the fact of their owning the property or selling it, or giving it – it was a lie about what it sold for! - cf - Acts 5:8

v. 4 "conceived this thing in your heart"? – middle voice – "to put or place" Not the devil, but Ananias and Sapphira conceived, put this thing, in their hearts!

### APPLICATION

We see here very clearly that confession of our sin is critically necessary! Yes, Jehovah is gracious if we confess our sin, but if not – then Achan!! Whoever tries to hide his sin will not prosper!

What an indication of a sin agreed to by both the husband and the wife! Why did they do it?

Hypocrisy, a horrible evil that has plagued the church through the years. Pretending to be something that you are not. God dealt very severely with hypocrisy here with the birth of the church. Here they were making a pretense of giving everything and yet holding back, obviously by agreement between themselves.

This was not a case of "church discipline" since God dealt with the sinners directly. The two deaths illustrate the kind of judgment Christ will exercise during the kingdom (see Jer 23:5 and Rev 19:15). Unlike local church discipline, where the pastor and the church investigate a matter, give opportunity for repentance and forgiveness, and seek to restore the erring ones, this was a definite case of divine judgment. It is interesting to compare this chapter to Jos 7:1-26, where the covetous Achan tried to hide sin from God and was killed. Great fear fell on the church (Act 5:11) as people saw the hand of God at work.

# LYING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT – ANANIAS & SAPPHIRA -- ACTS 5:1-11

## OBSERVATION

## INTERPRETATION

## APPLICATION

### THE RESULTS – Acts 5:5-11

*Act 5:5 Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.*

*Act 5:6 And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.*

*Act 5:7 Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.*

*Act 5:8 And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much."*

*Act 5:9 Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."*

*Act 5:10 Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband.*

*Act 5:11 So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.*

### THE RESULTS – Acts 5:5-11

*v 5 "Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last" - To Ananias – Acts 5:5-6*

*v 10 "immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last."  
- To Sapphira – Acts 5:7-10*

*v 11 So great fear came upon all the church 3B. To the church – Acts 5:11*

*v 5, 11 "and upon all who heard these things. - To unbelievers – Acts 5:5, 11*

### ILLUSTRATIONS:

Lying to IRS

Lying to husbands/wives – or to children

"Fear of the Lord"

Job 28:28 - "The fear of the Lord that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding"

Psalms 19:9 - "... is clean, enduring forever"

Psalms 34:9 - "O hear the Lord you His saints, for those who fear Him, there is no want"

Psalms 111:10 - "beginning of wisdom"

Psalms 112:1 - "How blessed is the man who fears the Lord"

Proverbs 1:7; 3:7; 8:13; 9:10; 10:27; 14:26; 15:33; 19:23

### Questions:

1. Would you say that this nation has a habit of lying?
2. Why would it be a good thing to quote vs. 3 & 4 to a Mormon?
3. Why is this passage good for all churches in the world to see?
4. What is the sin in this passage? (v. 4) In the owning? In the giving? Or in Acts 4:36-37?
5. According to Peter, who conceived the idea to give less to the church than what the property sold for, giving the indication that the church received the full proceeds?
6. What was the results of this account on the church and on the unbelievers that heard? (vs. 11, 14)