

Ananias and Sapphira – Lived a Lie

“Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife’s full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles’ feet.

Then Peter said, ‘Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God.’

When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter asked her, ‘Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?’ ‘Yes,’ she said, ‘that is the price.’

Peter said to her, ‘How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.’

At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.”
(Acts 5:1-11)

A. THE CONTEXT OF THE STORY

1. Ananias and Sapphira lived at a _____ of the _____.

a. God was setting the foundation of the early church by _____ this _____.

“If the hypocrisy of Ananias and Sapphira had not been publicly exposed and punished, the Christian ideal of an open fellowship would not have been preserved, and the modern cry ‘there are so many hypocrites in the church’ would have been heard from the beginning.” – John Stott

2. Ananias and Sapphira _____ to God.
(Romans 6:23; Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:17)

“For in him we live, and move, and have our being...” (Acts 17:28)

B. WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS (REALLY BAD) EXAMPLE?

1. Beware of the _____ of _____.

a. Hypocrisy can not only make _____ look bad, but it can make _____ look bad.

"They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good." (Titus 1:16)

"...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

2. Feed the _____ for a _____.

"So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man." (Acts 24:16)

Today's Big Idea...

Your _____ will determine your _____.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What drives you?
2. What is an example of hypocrisy you have seen in our world?
3. How well do you represent Jesus in your life?
4. Do you think God still judges as He did with Ananias and Sapphira?
5. What does it mean to have a clear conscience as a follower of Jesus?

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