

the remotest part of the earth

#5, lies and jealousy – Acts 5:1-42

They numbered in the thousands! Many were moved to give their substance to help each other and their sacrificial giving was witnessed by the multitude. There was the news that Barnabas sold all he owned.

In the corner of the crowd stood two people. As Barnabas laid down the money at the apostle's feet, they looked at each other and he slowly nodded to his wife.

1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 2 and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet.

3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? 4 "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

5 And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it. 6 The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.

7 Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?" And she said, "Yes, that was the price."

[1.] v:1-2, sold a piece of property, **Reviewing Acts 4:32-37, why or why don't you feel any of the new converts were coerced into selling their substance?**

[2.] v:1-2 again, kept back some of the price **What might have been the "inner motive" for Ananias and Sapphira to sell in the first place?**

[3.] v:3-4, not lied to men but to God. **OK, now here is one of those things! How would Peter have known the truth of their deed?**

[4.] v:5-6, great fear came over all who heard of it. **Describe what you feel was meant by the "great fear"?**

[5.] v:7-8, Yes, that was the price. **Describe how Peter gave Sapphira a chance to repent and live?**

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9 Then Peter said to her, "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as well." 10 And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things. 12 At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico. 13 But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem. 14 And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number, 15 to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. 16 Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed. 17 But the high priest rose up, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy. 18 They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail.

19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, 20 "Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life."

21 Upon hearing this, they entered into the temple about daybreak and began to teach. Now when the high priest and his associates came, they called the Council together, even all the Senate of the sons of Israel, and sent *orders* to the prison house for them to be brought.

[6.] v:9-11, you have agreed together, If either Ananias or Sapphira feared the Lord, this mess could have been avoided. Discuss why it is important to select a life partner that is committed to the Lord?

[7.] v:12-13, none of the rest dared, What might these be afraid of?

[8.] v:14-16, the cities in the vicinity, How can we know that God's word was spreading outside the boundaries of Jerusalem?

[9.] v:17-18, filled with jealousy. Oh, oh, the green monster! What was probably bothering them?

[10.] v:19-20, put them in a public jail. What was more powerful - strong bars or one angel?

[11.] v:21, sent orders to the prison, Without looking ahead, why would you conclude that for the leaders, this was going to be a really bad day?

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22 But the officers who came did not find them in the prison; and they returned and reported back, 23 saying, "We found the prison house locked quite securely and the guards standing at the doors; but when we had opened up, we found no one inside." 24 Now when the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them as to what would come of this.

25 But someone came and reported to them, "The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!" 26 Then the captain went along with the officers and proceeded to bring them back without violence (for they were afraid of the people, that they might be stoned).

27 When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them, 28 saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."

29 But Peter and the apostles answered, " We must obey God rather than men. 30 " The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. 31 " He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. 32 "And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

33 But when they heard this, they were cut to the quick and intended to kill them.

[12.] v:22-24, and reported back, What did the officers find when they went to the prison?

[13.] v:25-26, The men whom you put in prison, The good news was that the prisoners have been found. What was the bad news?

[14.] v:27-28, to bring this man's blood upon us. As leaders, why or why were they not responsible for the shedding of Christ's blood?

[15.] v:29-32, obey God rather than men. According to the angel's command (v:20) How were the apostles obeying God?

[16.] v:33, cut to the quick, Select some reasons why the leaders wanted to murder the apostles.

- a) Jealousy.
- b) Knowledge of their own guilt.
- c) Didn't want the teaching spread any further.
- d) They really looked bad in front of the people.

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34 But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law, respected by all the people, stood up in the Council and gave orders to put the men outside for a short time. 35 And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you propose to do with these men. 36 "For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a group of about four hundred men joined up with him. But he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. 37 "After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census and drew away some people after him; he too perished, and all those who followed him were scattered.

38 "So in the present case, I say to you, stay away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or action is of men, it will be overthrown;

39 but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God."

40 They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them.

41 So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.

42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

[17.] v:34-37, take care what you propose to do with these men. **Gamaliel relayed the history and outcome of two previous individuals. What did he say about Theudas?**

[18.] question [17.], What did Gamaliel say about Judas of Galilee?

[19.] v:38, in the present case, **What was Gamaliel's recommendation concerning Peter and John?**

[20.] v:39, What was Gamaliel's warning concerning Peter and John?

[21.] v:40, They took his advice; **Rather than murdering the apostles, what did the leaders end up doing?**

[22.] v:41, went on their way, **What was the apostles' reaction to the flogging?**

[23.] Did the apostles end up obeying the angel or the leaders?

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NOTES