

Ananias and Sapphira

Acts 4:31-5:11



Does going to church for the sake of pleasing others please God?

Should we be concerned about why we attend church and why we are Christians?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Send Your Holy Spirit among us today that through You we may come to a greater understanding and love for Your will. Lead us as we study Your word and learn why our number one goal in our lives is You. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Savior. Amen

The Story - Acts 4:31-5:11

{31} And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

{32} Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. {33} And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. {34} Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, {35} and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

{36} And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite

of the country of Cyprus, {37} having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

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

{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? {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."

{5} Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. {6} And the young men arose



and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.

{7} Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. {8} And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." {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."

{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. {11} So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

Recalling Details

1. Why did the members of the new Christian church sell their possessions and give to the those in need?
2. When Ananias and Sapphira sold their possession, what did they decide to do?
3. To whom did Ananias offer his gift?
4. What question did Peter ask Ananias about the gift?
5. How would Peter know about the total sale of Ananias and Sapphira's possession?
6. Why did Peter confront Ananias about this money?
7. According to Peter, to whom had Ananias lied?
8. A sin against God is punishable by what means?
9. Why hadn't Sapphira known about the events earlier in the day?
10. Why did Peter question Sapphira about the price of the possession?
11. The same end came to Sapphira as her husband, showing how serious lying is in God's eyes. What happened to Sapphira?
12. How did this young Christian congregation react to these two deaths?

Outer Aim

Ananias and Sapphira lied to Peter and to the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Questions

1. What can we do on our own to gain the wonderful blessings and love of our Heavenly Father?
2. Why will people who trust in the Lord above all things not die in their sins?
3. What was the price that was paid for the sins of the whole world?
4. Jesus death on the cross has taken care of all sin. How should we show our thankfulness for this wonderful gift life?

Inner Aim

God, the Holy Spirit, gives us the power to be truthful in our dealings with one another.

Passages

Proverbs 19:5b - A false witness will not go unpunished,
and he who speaks lies will not escape.

Ephesians 4:22-24 - That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:25a - Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.

Matthew 15:8 - These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 - Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.

Hymn/Prayer

Read Hymn 416 as your closing prayer.