

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. As the assembly was studying God's Word and praying, what happened?
2. What caused the "shaking?"
3. About what event did the apostles preach?
4. Out of love for the Lord, what did Joses do?
5. What did the apostles do with the proceeds from the sale?
6. What was the motivation that drove Ananias and Sapphira to sell their land?
7. What encouraged this type of motivation among Ananias and Sapphira?
8. What impression did Ananias give to the apostles and those gathered when he brought in the gift and laid it before the apostles?
9. Why did Peter continue to question Ananias about his gift?
10. Peter pointed out to Ananias that when you lie to your fellow Christian you lie to _____.
11. Did Sapphira know what had happened to her husband?
12. As with Ananias, Peter questioned Sapphira about the sale of the land. Why?
13. Did Ananias and his wife Sapphira die because they didn't give everything to the Lord, or because they were deceitful toward the Lord?

Outer Aim

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

Discussion Questions

1. Why was it important that this young Christian congregation be taught this very important lesson so early in their Christian fellowship?
2. Early in the story we are told of the excitement that the Gospel brought to those who were members of this congregation. What caused the excitement? Does that excitement still occur in our Christian congregations today?
3. Satan looks for ways to turn us away from the truth of the Lord. Satan constantly seeks to devour us, especially when we think we are safe within the walls of our churches and congregations. Name several ways that he may use to distract us from the Gospel while gathering with our fellow Christians.
4. What name do we give to individuals who come to church and go through the outward motions of being Christians while gathered with Christians, yet alone, or in the world, they lie, cheat, steal, and live worldly lives?
5. Many times it becomes discouraging when we are caught in our lies and others are not. What does God promise about everyone who lies? See Proverbs 19:5b.
6. Lying is wrong. According to Ephesians 4:25, how should we speak to one another?
7. Ananias and Sapphira were bringing their worldly gifts to worship the Lord. They wanted to have their fellow Christians look at their gift, not why they gave it. Where does God look when we bring our gifts and talents to Him? See Matthew 15:8.
8. We daily sin and continually fall short of the Lord's will. What has God done for us that allows us to even allow us to approach Him with gifts?
9. How should the gift of the Savior motivate us in our giving to the Lord?
10. Why does the Lord accept the gifts of a cheerful giver?

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 4:25a - 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.

Hymn

Study hymn 323 TLH. Notice how the hymn writer tells us how we are to approach the Lord.

Prayer

Write a prayer that fits our story today. Be sure to include how we should come before the Lord and ask that He lead us in our daily struggle with our weak faith, our daily lives in this unbelieving world, and our daily fight from Satan who constantly seeks to devour us.