

Ananias and Sapphira

Acts 5:1-11

Main Street

March 18, 2012



bible verse

COMMITTING TO MEMORY

Acts 5:12

And through the hands of the apostles
many signs and wonders were done
among the people...



story lesson

BIBLE STORY

Things were going fairly well for the new movement based on Jesus Christ of Nazareth, save but for a little persecution from the ruling elite. People were sharing their possessions, giving to those in need, breaking bread, fellowshiping, praying, and learning from the apostles' teachings. Life in this new venture later called the church was really subverting the empire within which this group lived.

Inappropriate conduct within this unique-God-ordained community, however, was dealt with harshly:

"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 to men but to God.'

"When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. Then the 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 agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! 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).



questions

REMEMBERING

- 1. What were the names of the couple who held some money back?** Ananias and Sapphira
- 2. What did Ananias and Sapphira hold back?** Some money from a sale of land
- 3. What happened to Ananias when he gave “all” the money to the apostles?** He fell down and died
- 4. What later happens to Ananias’ wife, Sapphira when asked about the price of the land?** She fell down and died
- 5. What seized the whole church?** Great fear
- 6. Why do you think God dealt so harshly with Ananias and Sapphira?**



life application

MAKING IT REAL

Don't Lie

Even small, innocent lies. Commit to being a truth-teller. Even if it means getting in trouble. Your integrity is worth it.

Protection

We often empathize for Ananias and Sapphira. We think that their punishment was rather harsh. And maybe it was. But we are looking at it from a human point of view. If we pause and look at it from God's point of view (if that is even possible), then maybe we see him protecting the integrity and sustainability of this young, fragile group of people who are supposed to be sharing everything. We should be thankful that God is actively protecting, even if we don't understand why.

Healthy Fear

Perhaps a healthy fear is good in a community that is dependent upon honesty and appropriate conduct to survive. Deception and dishonesty were not to be tolerated within this movement that proclaimed Good News for all to hear. It is good to fear (in a healthy way) those in authority over us. This "fear" usually generates a natural respect.



coloring sheet

ON THE NEXT PAGE

DEAR, YOU KEEP THAT PART OF THE MONEY.
THEY WILL NEVER KNOW!



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