

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Ananias and Sapphira
Acts 5:1-11

Last times...In the last 2 chapters, an Adventure in Faith in the early Church

- Peter and John went to the Temple for the evening prayer
Acts 3:1
- Peter and John received and exercised the spiritual gifts of faith and healing
Acts 3:6-7a
- Peter and John testified of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to the people
Acts 3:12-13a ff, 26
- About 5000 men believed and were born-again into the kingdom of God
Acts 4:4
- Peter and John were arrested for preaching and teaching the risen Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth and were called before the Religious authorities
Acts 4:1-7
- Peter and John testified of Jesus Christ before the Religious authorities
Acts 4:10-12, 19-20
- Peter and John...and the Church...were censored and threatened with bodily harm for preaching the Resurrection in Jesus' name and the kingdom of God
Acts 4:18
A fulfillment of a prophetic Word about the heart condition of the nation
Luke 16:31 *And he (Abraham) said unto him (rich man), If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead*
- Peter and John briefed the Church on the censorship and the threats and a prayer meeting broke out, God answered their prayer immediately, the place was shaken, the Church was filled with the Holy Spirit, and the Church boldly preached the kingdom of God
Acts 4:31-33

During His ministry on earth, Jesus preached the kingdom of God

- John 3:3 *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God*
- Mark 1:14-15 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*
- Matt 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you*
- Matt 13 The kingdom of God is like unto...the Kingdom Parables
- Luke 16:16 *The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached*
- Acts 1:1-3 for 40 days!

Jesus sent His disciples to preach the kingdom of God

Luke 9:1-2 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

The early Church preached the Resurrection in Jesus' name and the kingdom of God...

Repent and believe/receive (John 1:12)

Col 1:12-14 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

The Book of Acts ends with this

Acts 28:30-31 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

To this day, Jesus has not changed the mission of the Church

We are to preach and teach the Resurrection in Jesus' name and the kingdom of God...

Repent and believe/receive

We are not social activists, even in a time of great social upheaval like these days, just as the early Church were not social activists in the days of the Roman Empire.

Acts 2:40 is not anti-Gov't, it is pro-kingdom of God

As the early Church in their appointed days, we in our appointed days are spiritual activists for the kingdom of God while we are "passing through"

John 17:16-18 we are "in" but not "of" (belonging to, with) the world

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth

Gal 3:29 And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise (and strangers and pilgrims too!)

Phil 3:20 our citizenship is in heaven

While the earth is convulsing these days in fear (which is being stoked),
While confusion and darkness swell,
While evil men and seducers wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived,
in every system and nation of the world,
we need to keep our eyes on our mission and finish well our course,
diligent to ward off the distractions continually presented by our flesh, the world,
and the devil

This time...the kingdom of God is holy, as God is holy

We are in Acts 5...Ananias and Sapphira

v1-2 But...Ananias...Sapphira:

In contrast to the fellowship of Ch 4:34-37 are a husband and wife

- not in one accord with the Church but only with each other
- “playing Church”, putting on a façade, pretending to be holy
 - sell a possession...”It is the Lord’s!” publicly
 - but kept back part of the price...”clandestinely sequestered or embezzled” some of the money, “It is ours!” privately
 - laid a portion of the proceeds at the feet of the apostles... as if they were “all in” with Ch 4:34-35b

What we have here is

- a shallow show of devotion
- a deception by
 - two covetous hearts (Matt 6:24)
 - two double-minded/unstable people (James 1:8)
- a case of fraud

v3-4 But Peter said:

Jer 17:9-10, so what is the best spiritual gift in this situation?

A word of knowledge (1 Cor 12:8)

Why has Satan...tempter, liar, deceiver, relentless promoter of all things Self,
“king” of the kingdom of the world

filled your heart...Matt 16:23

to lie...liars lie, speak and do anti-truth

to the Holy Ghost...all-knowing and all-seeing God the Holy Spirit

to keep back part of the price of the land...withholding from God while
pretending for all to see that you have withheld nothing

Whiles it remained, was it not your own...Before you sold it, it was yours.
You were free to do with it as you pleased

after it was sold, was it not in your own power...And after you sold it, all the
money was yours too, to do with as you pleased.

Why have you conceived this thing in your heart...concocted this fraudulent
scheme in your heart

You have not lied to men but to God...you did not lie to me/us, you lied to God
by pretending to be something you are not; Holy Spirit told me you lied.

Note: God (v4) = Holy Ghost (v3)

What is NOT the issue?

- The possession/land
- The money from the sale of the land

What is the issue?

- The divided heart of Ananias (and Sapphira)
- A heart corrupted with covetousness of the things of the world
- 1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us

v5-6 fell down and gave up the ghost:

When this "Num 32:23" moment is finished

(if say one thing and do not what say, your sin will find you out),

Ananias collapsed and died

Right then, right there

Strong young men came in and attended to the burial of the body
Immediately

A great fear..."fright", "alarm"...came on all who heard what happened
Undoubtedly!

v7-8 three hours after...wife...Tell me:

About 3 hours later, Sapphira shows up, completely unaware of what happened to
her husband

Peter, giving her an opportunity to come clean, asks Sapphira if
ye...plural you, you and Ananias

a granularity of English language found only in KJV

sold the land for so much...the full price was brought to the feet of the
apostles

Sapphira,

- a willing participant in the fraud
 - in one accord (of the flesh) with her husband
 - given a gift of time to reconsider her participation in the conspiracy
- said “That’s right” (perhaps with a boastful tone)

v9-11 ye agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord:

How could you even think it possible to conspire together to test the Spirit of the Lord (who knows the hearts of all men) Who told you not to test Him?

Deut 6:16 Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God

Those who carried and buried your husband are here to carry and bury you.

Wait, what?

Then Sapphira collapsed and died

Right there, right then

Her body was taken away and buried

Immediately

And great fear came upon

- all the Church
- all who heard what had happened (outside the Church)

Undoubtedly!

Again

Application

Holy fear

Num 16 Korah and Dathan and 2 others coveted power...swallowed up

Joshua 7 Achan coveted gold and silver and clothes, right after Jericho...stoned

Deut 13:6-11

Holy fear is healthy...it inspires holy living!

The kingdom of God is like the King of the kingdom – holy

Ditto for the citizens of the kingdom of God

1 Peter 1:13-22

v16 holiness, a command

v17 Holy fear

v21 proper “orientation” at all times

v22 purified (ala 1 John 3:1-3) by sincere love (of others, not Self)

The world has no place in the kingdom of God

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God

Ex 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's...

Rom 7:7 I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet

Col 3:5 covetousness (of the things of the world), which is idolatry

Mark 7:20-23 That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man

Matt 6:19-24

Matt 13:22 Soil #3

Luke 9:62 Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God

Luke 17:31-32 In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot's wife.

Luke 12:15 Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Luke 16:10-15 faithful with unrighteous mammon, true riches

Luke 17:20-21 a matter of the heart, a heart in one accord with Jesus Christ

Luke 18:16-17 the heart of a little child not corrupted by the things of the world

Luke 18:24-25 a divided heart

Luke 19:1-10 v8-9, salvation from covetousness, a divided heart made whole

1 Tim 6:5-12 the love of money...lust, covetousness

1 Cor 6:9-10 among those that will not inherit the kingdom of God: the covetous

Eph 5:1-10 walk in love, let not covetousness be said of you
A covetous man is an idolater and has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God

Heb 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

Rev 22:14-15 Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without *are* dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters (the covetous), and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

The life blood of the world is money/mammon
The love of money is why all the systems of the world are broken
Covetousness of the things of the world is idolatry (spiritual betrayal) in the eyes of God
Holiness is coveting the things of God and not the things of the world

The very early Church was holy, undefiled by covetousness
Acts 4:32-35
Matt 6:33

But covetousness crept in; the devil wormed in and was given an audience
Matt 26:41 *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak*
was relaxed

Covetousness, the love of money and of the things of the world, is hazardous to our health – spiritual and physical

Never satisfied
Never content
Endless discontentment
Always wanting more and different
A cruel taskmaster

Contentment must be learned (Phil 4:11) because we are naturally covetous

Covetousness (idolatry) should be as frightening to us as is Acts 5:1-11
and Num 16 and Joshua 7 (1 Cor 10:11)

Remember: the possession is not the problem, the heart is the problem

Covetousness...a heart after the things of the world...has no place in our Adventure of Faith, following Jesus and preaching the kingdom of God

We are either sold-out or a hold-out

Gal 6:7-8 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

2 Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us

James 1:14-16

1 Thes 5:4-6 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober.

Our focus: the kingdom of God

Do not be distracted or discouraged by the kingdom of the world