

HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY
ACTS 5:1-11 / 12-29-19 / P.M.

Let's consider a few important truths about this story before we dive into it.

1. Their story stands in stark contrast to the generosity of the early Christians in Acts 4:32-37.
2. Chapter five begins with the word "Now" indicating that the story that follows is the opposite of the generosity recounted in chapter 4.
3. This story isn't the normative. It's an anomaly that isn't repeated anywhere else in the N.T.
4. This story strongly parallels the story in Joshua 7 concerning a man named Achan.
5. This story is Satan's attack on the fledgling church from within.

I. THEIR INFAMOUS STORY.

A. What was their sin? 5:1-4.

1. They loved money more than God or their church—1 Tim. 6:10.
2. They wanted to appear to be more generous than they were.
3. They not only lied to Peter, they lied to God.

B. Their Judgment—5:5-10.

1. Peter wasn't responsible for their judgment.
2. God was.

C. The Reaction of the People—5:5b and 11.

II. THEIR LESSONS

1. God sees everything—Prov.15:3.
2. Lying is a sin—Prov. 12:22.
3. Greed is a sin—Ecc. 5:10.
4. We can hide our sins from others but not from God—Numbers 32:23.
5. Fear and reverence of God go hand in hand—Exo. 20:20, Prov. 1:7.
6. God takes sin seriously, deadly serious—Isa 59:1-2 and Romans 1:18-19.

