Series "God At Work" Book Of Acts
"Profession Versus Practice"
Acts 4:32-5:11
Study-10

The Truth - Acts 4:32-37 We have one of the most glorious passages that describes **the NT Church Walking in the Spirit/Truth of God – Blessed of God!**

The Consequences - Acts 5:1-11 We have a couple who attempt to lie to God and thus rob Him of Glory, that God must judge:

Numbers 32:23; 1 Peter 4:17

Thought of the Passage: "God Blesses Those Walking In Truth And God Will Judge Those Who Rob God Of His Glory."

1. Verses 32-37 Truth And Unity
2. Verses 1-11 Lying To God

<u>1. Verses 32-37 Truth And Unity:</u>

Acts 4:32 And Context - Satan has attempted to stop the witness/growth through the lives of the NT church. Holy Spirit, through Peter and John, healed a man in **Acts 3.** They were arrested and in **Acts 4** were commanded not to teach or preach in the name.

They responded to the threats by prayer! **Acts 4:31**

This attack of Satan upon the church turned out to be a blessing in disguise!

<u>The Holy Spirit's Effect Upon the Church: (3 Observations)</u>

1. **Verse 32 The Spirit Brought Unity: the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul;**

   those who believed - these are believers; they have placed their faith in Jesus.

   were of one heart – *"oneness in truth reality in their bonds with each other."*

   and soul – *"they were thinking along the same lines, they had the same theology."*

2. **Verse 32 The Spirit Brought Generosity: and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own; but all things were common property**

This does not teach **Communism** – compulsory giving says, *"What's yours is mine."* **Socialism -** giving a portion, but with the difference that was based on generosity: *"What's mine is yours"*

This was possibly "Communalism." Like many things in the early Church, it was temporary and expedient due to local conditions.

Book of Acts is a historical narrative; it contains both Descriptive and Prescriptive.

3. **Verse 33 The Spirit Brought A Powerful Witness: Acts 4:33 great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord**

   and abundant grace was upon them all. This was a pure and holy life that was being used by the Lord. **Acts 4:29**

Verses 34-35 Results of Their Sharing: Acts 4:34-35

The principles of Christian giving in **2 Corinthians 8-9; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4**

Acts 4:36 Barnabas – was an Apostle **Acts 14:14** His name is mentioned **25 times** in **Acts** and **five times** in the **Epistles**.

Son of Encouragement, *"son of comfort."*

Acts 4:37

<u>2. Verses 1-11 Lying To God:</u>

Acts 5:1 But Because of what just transpired in **Acts 4,** Barnabas sold a tract of land and laid it at the Apostles' feet.

a man named Ananias, - Means *"God is gracious."*

with his wife Sapphira, - Her name means – *"Beautiful."*

Ananias, and Sapphira were probably Christians: Able to lie to the Spirit **(Acts 5:3)** and tempt (Test) the Spirit **(Acts 5:9)** would indicate that they had the Spirit.

sold a piece of property, - Barnabas sold a tract of land and gave the money to the church. No doubt there was some recognition of this act of love.

Acts 5:2 and kept back some of the price for himself, (and bringing a portion of it,) This was the sin of **Hypocrisy,** which simply means *"wearing a mask, playing the actor."*

The Couple's Sin Was Born Out of Envy:

The Sin Was Motivated By Pride: Pride is a sin that God especially hates and judges **(Proverbs 8:13).** This is a serious sin. **Want to be seen by man! Look at me!**

kept back some of the price for himself, - Holding back on God!

with his wife's full knowledge, The role of the Wife, (Helper) **Ephesians 5:21-24**

and bringing a portion of it, he <u>laid it at the apostles' feet</u>. Jesus made it very clear that we must be careful how we give.
(Matthew 6:1-4, 19-34)

Acts 5:3 The Role of Satan (Can't Beat Them, Join Them): "Ananias, why has <u>Satan filled your heart</u> to lie to the Holy Spirit,

Satan filled your heart to lie – Satan is the father of lies – **John 8:44**

Satan is a created being, an angel that had free will and chose to rebel. He is not omnipresent (Highly organized with demons), omnipotent (he is limited to the power God allows), or omniscient (That means he cannot read our minds). **James 4:7**

Satan's tactic is to appear as a "devouring lion" **1 Peter 5:8**
Satan appears as a "deceiving serpent" or an "angel of light"
2 Cor. 11:3, 13-14
Satan is both a murderer and a liar **John 8:44**

Paul's Warning to the Ephesians Elders: Acts 20:28-31

Sin Is Always Against God: lie to the Holy Spirit

The Rights of Ownership: Acts 5:4 "While it remained unsold, did it not remain <u>your own</u>? And after it was sold, was it not <u>under your control</u>?

Why is it that you have conceived this deed in <u>your heart</u>?
Satan led him, but he was responsible for the act.

You have not lied to men, but to God. This was a serious sin.

Acts 5:5 God judges it in a physical way.

OT God Took Some Lives In Judgment During Crucial Times:

1. **Nadab** and **Abihu** for trying to present "false fire" to the Lord, **Leviticus 10**
2. God judged the family of **Korah** (Leadership) **Numbers 16:31-33**
3. **Uzzah** was struck dead for touching the Ark – **2 Samuel 6**

1 Corinthians 10:11-12; 1 Corinthians 11:30 a number sleep.

Acts 5:6 This is the first hint of corruption in the NT church, so God deals promptly.

Acts 5:7 his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Wife was in the dark!

Acts 5:8 (She Lies)

Acts 5:9 agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test?
"Deliberately disobeying God and seeing how far they could go with God"
(Ex. 17:2; Deut. 6:16)

Acts 5:10 Both were dealt with by physical death.

1 Corinthians 11:30 and a number sleep. NLT Hebrews 10:30-31

The Outcome: Acts 5:11

1. **The Purity Of The Church Was Preserved.**

2. **Godly Fear Permeated The Church: great fear came upon the whole church.**

3. **Godly Reverence On All Who Heard These Things: and upon all who heard of these things.**

Application:

1. The Early Church Placed Their Faith In The Person Of Christ – Rather Than The Institution Of The Church.

2. The Gravity Of Sin: Ananias And Sapphira's Sin Was Not In Robbing God Of Money But In Lying To Him And Robbing Him Of Glory.

3. We Need To Examine Our Own Lives To See If Our Profession Is Backed Up By Our Practice.