

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for November 28, 2010

“A Bad Example of Giving”
Acts 5:1-11

The story of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11) is positioned in stark contrast to the story of Barnabas (Acts 4:36-37) for the purpose of emphasis.

1. The death of Ananias (5:1-6)

a. Sinful deception (5:1-2)

Ananias' sin was deceit, not failure to give completely.

b. Selfish desire (5:3-4)

Ananias' motivation was pride more than greed. When we seek spiritual respect without full commitment, we are guilty of the sin of Ananias.

The role of Satan: Satan communicates the world's values to tempt our mind and cause our heart to be filled with lies.

The role of the Spirit: When we fail to be filled with the Spirit, we are vulnerable to being filled with the lies of Satan.

Note: Peter affirms the deity of the Holy Spirit.

c. Sudden death (5:5)

While all sin is against God, sin against God's church is particularly serious.

Prevarication and pride destroy fellowship.

At key moments in history, God judged specific sin in order to communicate the seriousness of rebellion to His people (Genesis 3; Leviticus 10:1-2; Joshua 7).

d. Subsequent dread (5:5-6)

The young men were not professional undertakers but were on hand and were referenced to testify to the fact of this event.

2. The death of Sapphira (5:7-11)

Sapphira is included in this account as proof of the supernatural judgment of God.

a. Sinful deception (5:7-8)

Sapphira's answer proved her conspiracy with her husband in his lie, and that she continued the deceit herself.

b. Selfish desire (5:9)

We put the Holy Spirit to the test when we presume that God will act or will not act in a certain manner (cf. Matthew 4:7; Acts 15:10).

c. Sudden death (5:10)

Just as the couple was joined in sin, so were they joined in death.

d. Subsequent dread (5:11)

This is the first use of the word "church" in Acts and comes at a time when the church is threatened from within.

This great fear did not stop the growth of the church. God's work in the lives of people is unstoppable.

We must exercise care when we consider what activities will or will not aid the evangelistic ministry of the church.

May we have the commitment to Christ to do His will regardless of the circumstances for His glory alone.