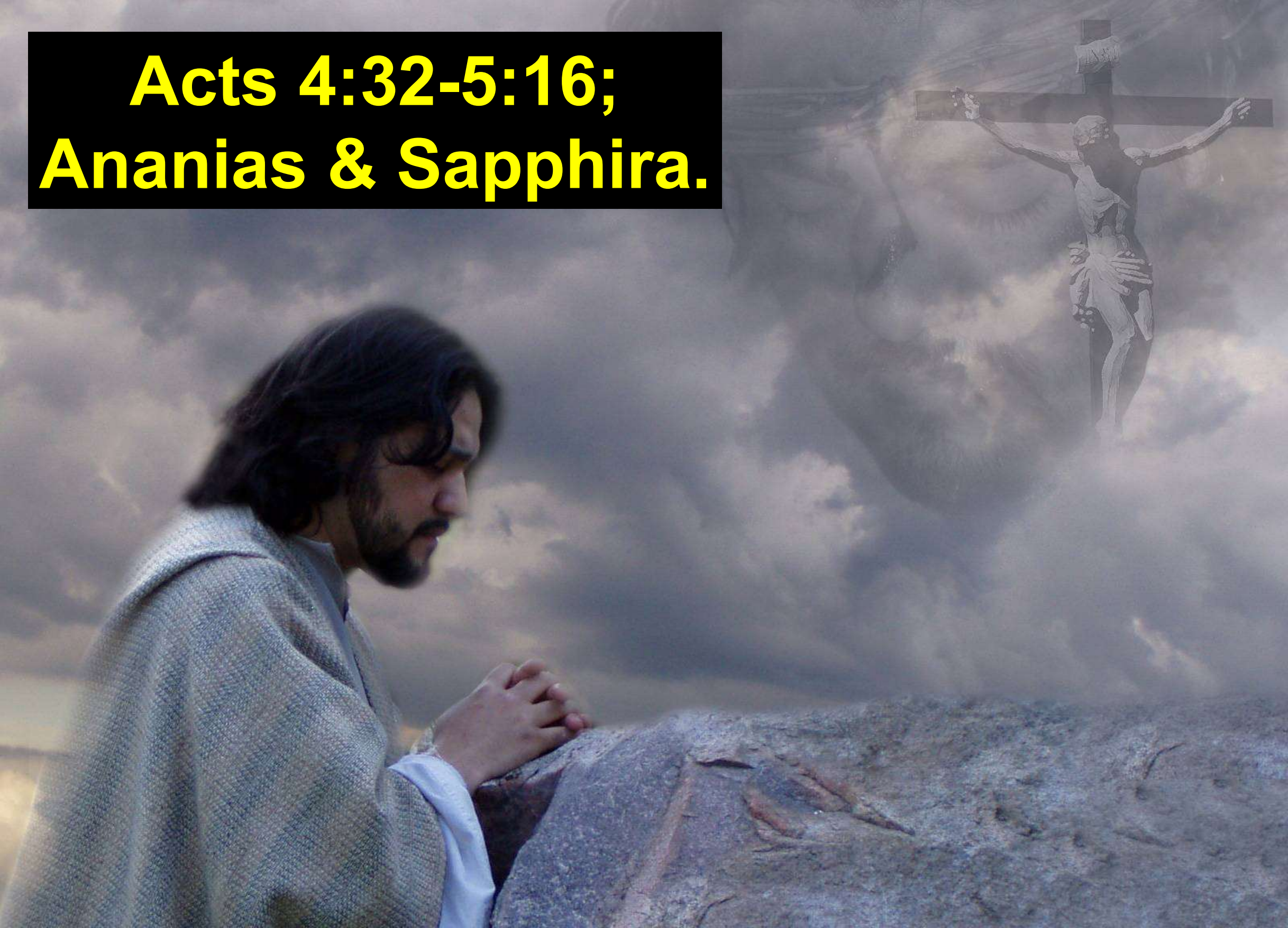
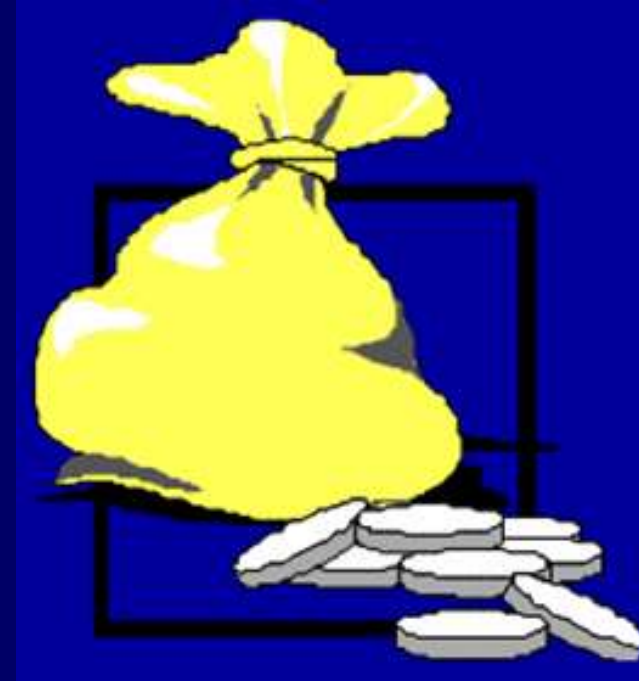


**Acts 4:32-5:16;
Ananias & Sapphira.**



Bible Study

Acts 4:32-5:16;
Ananias & Sapphira.



**A Deadly peril to spiritual health
in the body of Christ.**

Hypocrisy an Internal Attack!

Acts of Apostles Acts 4:32-5:12;



Acts of Apostles Acts 4:32-5:12;

It is now probably weeks since the coming of God's Kingdom. The Apostles continue to preach the gospel every day to the multitudes.

The church is growing daily.
Thousands are being added to the number of believers.

The disciples are in constant fellowship, **learning at the feet of the Apostles**, worshiping and eating together and sharing their resources as needs arise.



Acts of Apostles Acts 4:32-5:12;

The rulers of the Jews have been trying to silence the Apostles. They have threatened them and kept Peter and John overnight in jail.

Up until now they have been afraid to punish them because the people held them in awe because they had healed the crippled beggar at the Beautiful Gate of the temple.

But because the Apostles continue to draw people and testify to the resurrection of Jesus, the Jewish rulers feel they must shut them up.

Palestinians sharing a meal



Acts of Apostles 4:32-37;

In Acts 4:32-37; We learned that the believers were sharing their earthly possessions with each other.

Those who lived near Jerusalem and had possessions they could sell did so and brought the proceeds to the Apostles to be shared with those in need.

What special circumstances surrounded the giving that Christians did?

Looking after and sharing with the needy
should have been what the Temple management
were supposed to do.

3-5 A TALE OF TWO TEMPLES

A PRACTICE DESCRIBED
IN THE **TORAH**
(DEUTERONOMY 14-15)
SUPPOSED TO BE MANAGED
BY THE **TEMPLE**

LUKE'S POINT:

THE NEW
TEMPLE
OF JESUS' COMMUNITY
IS NOW WHERE PEOPLE
ENCOUNTER GOD'S
*GENEROSITY &
healing presence*



PETER HEALS & PREACHES IN THE TEMPLE--ARRESTED & TRIED

"JESUS' DISCIPLES GATHER DAILY IN THE TEMPLE COURTS & HOUSE TO HOUSE"

Many Sojourners.



Acts of Apostles 4:32-37;

Thousands of Jews who had come from other lands for Pentecost had been converted and had remained in Jerusalem to learn more about Jesus and His teachings.

Many had since run out of personal resources and were in need of daily food and shelter.

Joseph, also called Barnabas, made a notable contribution which seems to have inspired others to do the same.

All the believers were one in heart and mind.

No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared some of what they had.

Acts of Apostles 4:32-37;

There were no NEEDY persons among them.

For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

“Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.”

Here we Are introduced to Barnabas, companion of Paul on his first missionary journey and one who has an important role in the early church.

Barnabas' nickname was



**Son of
encouragement.**

Megas Alexandros was:-



**Alexander
the Great.**

**Barnabas was not just
an encouraging talker but also a doer!**

What nickname would they give you?



Jenny the Humble.



Pat the Texter



Elsie the Counselor.



Bismark the strengthener.

Acts of Apostles 4:32-37;

**The unity of the brethren and
their willingness to help one another.**

**Many times, we appeal to the closeness
of the brethren in the 1st century.**

**However, LOOK at the level of COMMITMENT
on the part of the brethren to one another.**

**How great is our commitment
towards helping other brethren?**

Consider the attitude expressed in Philippians 2:1-5a;

Acts of Apostles 4:32-37;

Philippians 2:1-5a . “So, if there is any appeal in our union with Christ, if there is any persuasive power in love, if we have any common share in the Spirit, if you have any tender heartedness and sympathy.”

2. “fill up my cup of joy by living in harmony, by fostering the same disposition of love, your hearts beating in unison, your minds set on one purpose.”

3. “Stop acting from motives of selfish strife or petty ambition, but in humility practice treating one another as your superiors. 4. Stop looking after your own interests only but practice looking out For the interests of others too. 5. Keep on fostering the same disposition that Christ Jesus had”

Acts of Apostles 4:33;

The results of Persecution in the Early church.

4:33; “With great power the apostles continued to testify to the RESURRECTION of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.”

5:14; “And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number;”

Acts of Apostles 4:33;

The Kingdom continues to grow in numbers.

**The Apostles continue to be the primary teachers
and leaders in the early church.**

An attempt to intimidate them and shut them up has failed.

**The disciples of Jesus are solving problems
as they arise through the leadership of the Apostles.**

Acts of Apostles 4:33;

Opposition to true Christian community, and the spreading of GOD'S LOVE is INEVITABLE

God's radical truth, releases us from the bonds of human control, and spiritual darkness.

There is no greater threat to the world system than a Christian who is WILLING to boldly PROCLAIM and LIVE God's message.

And no force can stop it except our own free will choice to quit!

Acts of Apostles 4:33-5:12;

The Spiritual Warfare

Menacing tactics against the church:-

- 1. Persecution.**
- 2. Infiltration (Acts 5) –
one of the most deadly!**

Acts of Apostles 5:1-2;



Acts of Apostles 5:1-4;

“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? after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal?”

Acts of Apostles 5:1-4;

**A Redefinition of the Battle.
Knowing a God Who Cannot Be Fooled.**

**The Battle Redefined:
Satan vs. God
in a battle for our soul
we can live for self or be selfless.**

**The battle has always been about the SPIRITUAL realm
because Satan knows that **the stakes are ETERNAL
rather than TEMPORARY-** and so must we.
(Isaiah 29:15-16; 2 Peter 2:10-22;)**



**Ananias and Sapphira
Acts 5:1-2;**



Achan Joshua 6;

**“But the Israelites acted
unfaithfully in regard to
the devoted things; Achan son
of Carmi, the son of Zimri, the
son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah,
took some of them. So the Lord’s
anger burned against Israel.”**

Joshua 7:1;

Acts 5:1-11

Achan's Steps Downward

Joshua 7:21

HE Saw

HE Coveted

HE Took

HE Was Punished

**"When I saw among the spoils
a beautiful Babylonian garment,
two hundred shekels of silver,
and a wedge of gold
weighing fifty shekels,
I coveted them
and took them."**

The **amount** of the gift was not the problem.
Acts 5:4;

The problem started when he tried
to deceive God as to the size of the gift!

Lying to God comes in a
number of different ways!



We stop coming to church!

We stop studying the Bible!

**We become involved with
the world and its pleasure!**

**We begin to lie to God
and His people!**

2 Chronicles 6:30-31;

“For God alone knows the hearts of men.”

Acts of Apostles 5:5;

The land was theirs. The money was theirs.

They could have done with the money
anything they wanted.

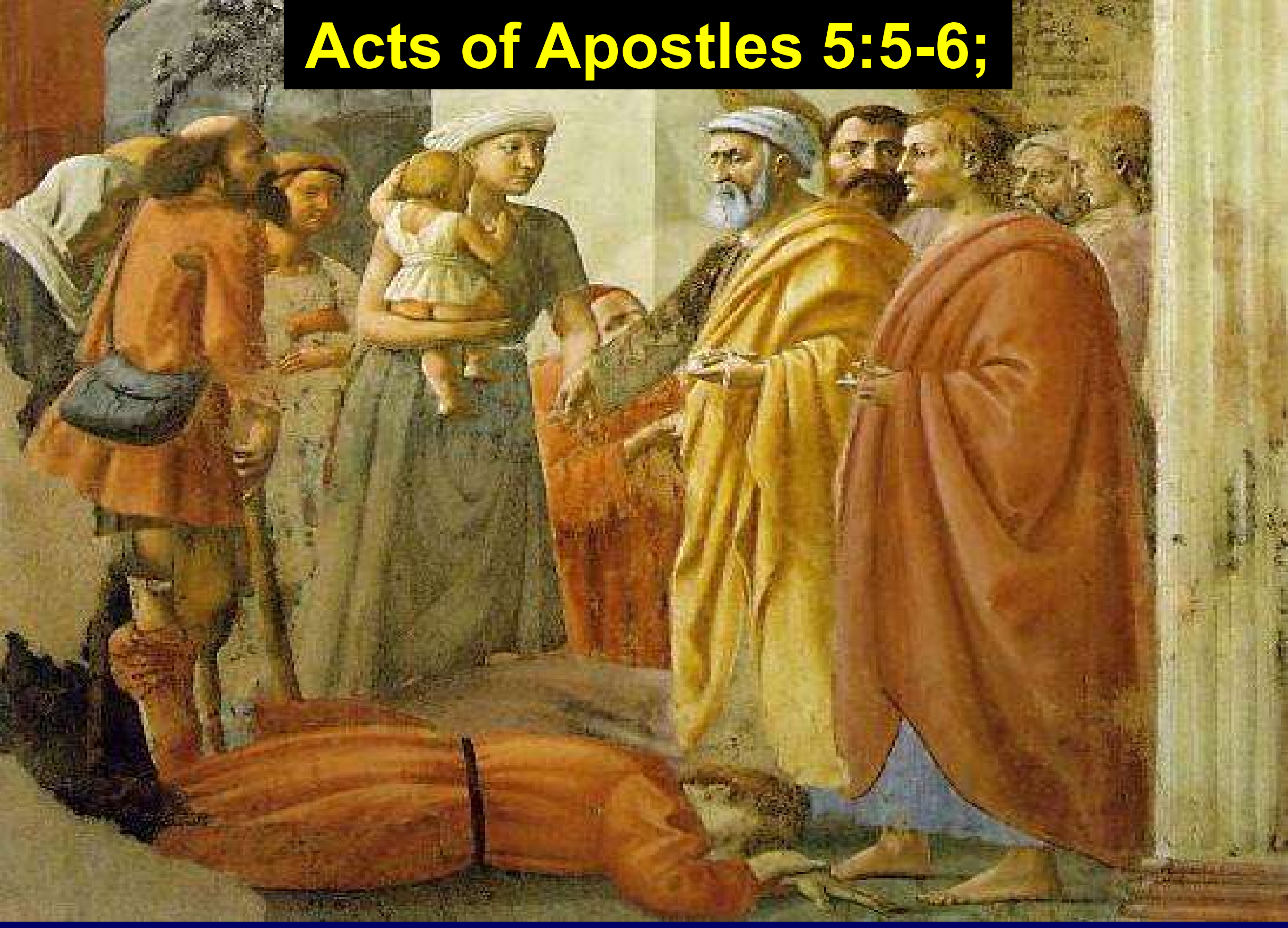
They could have given part of it and kept the rest.

But what they did that was wrong
was that they gave part of the money
and said they had given it all. **They lied.**

Today when we lie to men we are not struck dead
instantly as these two were. **Why not?**

What was different in this case?

Acts of Apostles 5:5-6;



Acts of Apostles 5:5-6;



Acts of Apostles 5:5-6;

“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.”

Acts of Apostles 5:7-11;

7 “About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 Peter asked her,

"Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"

"Yes," she said, "that is the price."

9 “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."



Acts of Apostles 5:10 Sapphira is Struck Dead.

What Luke did was present two cases that stand in opposition to each other. **Barnabas** is a concerned, faithful and a true disciple; **Ananias** and **Sapphira** are selfish, faithless liars.

The incident shows that the church, even in its earliest days, was not a community of perfect people. Perhaps Luke tells this story to warn his readers not to Overestimate the spiritual perfection of the first believers. But more likely **God hates hypocrisy.**



Acts of Apostles 5:10 Sapphira is Struck Dead.

10 “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. 11 Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.”

So how can one explain why these two were so severely punished for lying in this instance when people are not so severely punished for lying today?

Acts of Apostles 5:5-6; Lying to God.



Acts of Apostles 5:1-6; Lying to God.

The Apostles were prophets of God. They represented the authority of Jesus on earth during their lifetimes. Their authority could not be questioned without impunity.

Ananias, Sapphira and anyone else of that time had to know that attempting to lie to these men was like attempting to lie to God Himself.

The severity of the punishment served as a lesson to everyone who would challenge the authority of the Apostles.

Acts of Apostles 5:5-6; Lying to God.

We see the progression. Many of the disciples were selling some of their possessions and bringing the money to the apostles. (Acts 5:1;)



Ananias lied about how much he and his wife had received for the possession which they sold.
(Acts 5:2-6;)

Sapphira also lied. (Acts 5:7-10;)

Upon seeing and hearing of Ananias and Sapphira's death, fear came upon all the church.
(Acts 5:11;)

Acts of Apostles 5:5-11; Lying to God.

The Battlefield Redrawn:- All vs. the Church.

**Justification always begins
with the Holiness of God.**

Change must come first from within
before change can occur, anywhere else.

Ananias and Sapphira were lying
to the Holy Spirit and to other Christians.
(Cf. Ephesians 5:25; Colossians 3:9;)

Ananias and Sapphira action were supposed
to have been one of **selflessness**,
esteeming their brethren greater than themselves.
Instead, it seems their act was not
one of **selflessness**, but **selfishness**. Philip 2:1-4;

Acts of Apostles 5:1-11; Authority of the Apostles.

**Jesus does not walk on the earth
in human form today. The Apostles
do not walk on the earth in human form today.**

**But Jesus and the Apostles are still
the primary authorities in the Church even today.
Jesus wrote nothing. But He rules His Kingdom
today through the written word of the Apostles.**

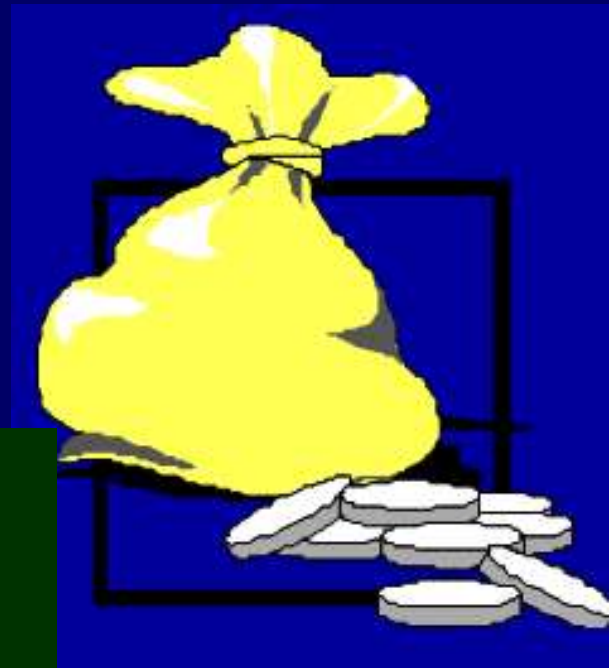
**Paul said the written Word trumps the oral word
of anyone claiming to be a prophet.
(1 Corinthians 14:37-38; Gal 1:6;). 1 John 4:1-6;)**

Acts of Apostles 5:1-12; Lying to God.

Why was God so harsh
with Ananias and Sapphira?

What can we learn
from this story?

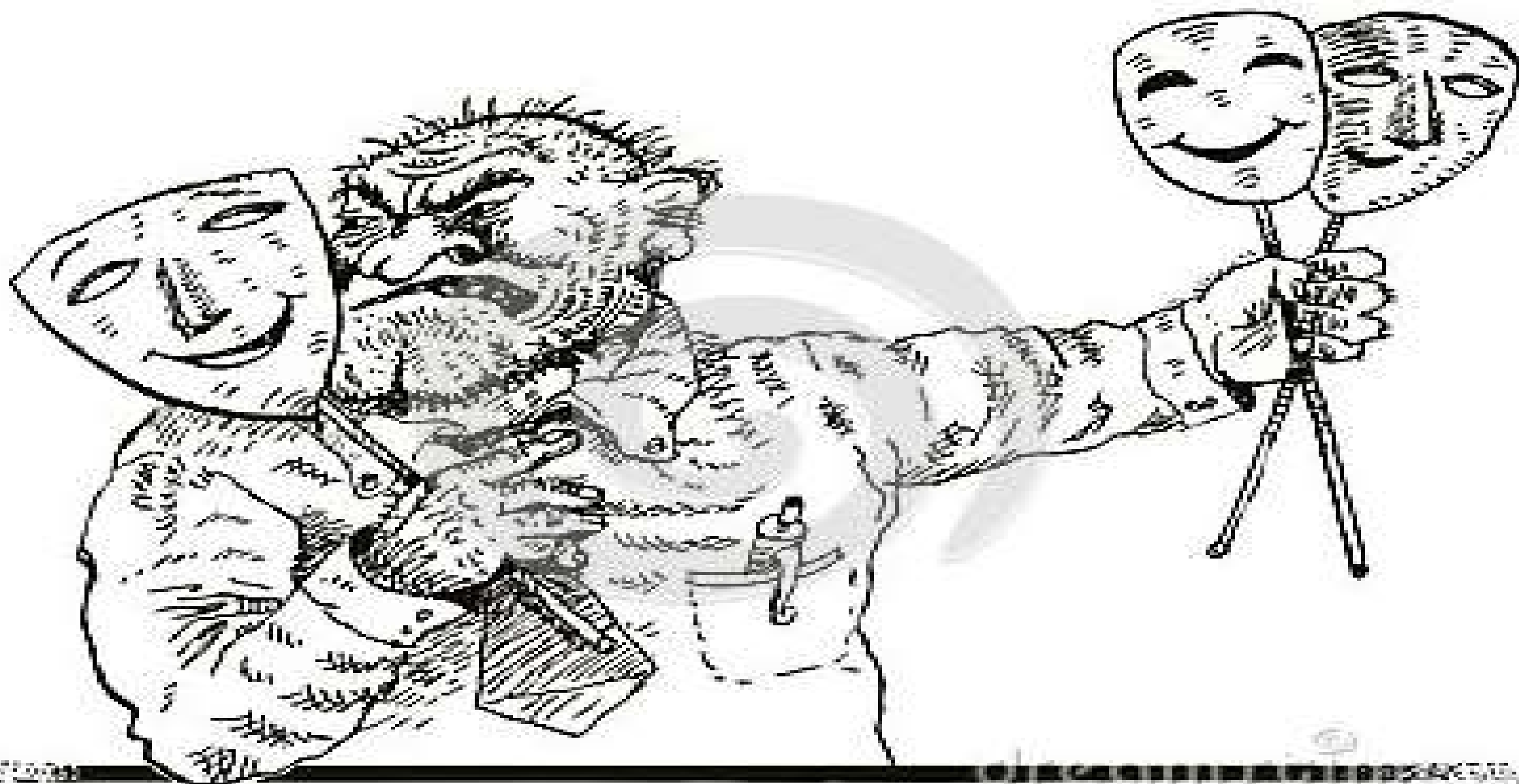
“For the love of money is a root
of all kinds of evil.” 1 Tim 6:10;



The Main Point!

Don't be a hypocrite or God will kill you!

Acts 5:1-12; Ananias & Sapphira Hypocrisy



Acts of Apostles 5:1-12; Lying to God.

What would have been the significance of Ananias being able to deceive the Holy Spirit?

“The propriety of it may be appreciated if we suppose Ananias to have succeeded in his undertaking. His success would have been but temporary for the fraud, like all other frauds, would have been detected sooner or later, and”

“when detection came it would have brought with it a serious problem in the minds of the people of the powers of the Holy Spirit dwelling in the apostles.”

Acts of Apostles 5:5-6; Lying to God.

“To learn that the Spirit could be deceived would have undermined the whole fabric of apostolic authority and might have overthrown the faith of many, if not all.”

The attempt brought on a crisis of vital importance and demanded such a vindication of the power of the Spirit as could be neither mistaken nor forgotten.”
Don DeWelt.

Jerry Jones says “This story reminds us that the church has always had problem members. Ananias and Sapphira were charter members of the first church.”

Acts of Apostles 5:1-12; Lying to God.

“To this point it seems that all had been positive with the early church. Perhaps they felt that if they could kill God’s Son and get away with it.”

“They could do anything and that hypocrisy would be a part of the church just like it had been in Phariseeism.”

Acts of Apostles 5:1-12; Lying to God.

Key Issues:- **The point is not** that they kept part of their money (v4;)

4. “Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold?
And after it was sold,
wasn’t the money at your disposal?”

The point is not that Peter sentenced them!
What about God killing people?

They were members of the body, and true believers.
Shortening someone’s physical life
is not the worst thing that can happen to them.
A and S felt no pain in this story

Acts of Apostles 5:1-12; Lying to God.

They were guilty of Hypocrisy. (Luke 12:1; Matt 23;)

Luke 12:1; “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.”

Mat 23:5; “They do all their deeds to be noticed by me, 6 they love the place of honour at banquets. 25 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, inside they are full of robbery & self-indulgence.”

Acts of Apostles 5:1-12; Lying to God.

Hypocrisy is a type of dishonesty. Claiming to be more holy, or spiritual than we really are.

- Corrosive and contagious - Destroys authenticity
Devastating to God's message to the world!

Self-righteous hypocrisy is so dangerous at that formative stage of the church, God couldn't afford to let it take root.

Acts of Apostles 5:1-12; Lying to God.

**What happens to a local body
once the leaven of the Pharisees takes hold?**

**The power of the Spirit is quenched because of
the constant falsehood and arrogance. (James 4:6;)**

**Spiritual growth becomes very difficult in
an environment where you can't admit your problems.**

Inter-personal closeness becomes very improbable.

**Instead of cooperation born of humility
comes competition. Outreach dies.**

Focus goes to external behaviour – “holiness”

Acts of Apostles 5:1-12; Lying to God.

Because of **hypocrisy**, young people
lose confidence in the gospel.

Underlying despair leaves people vulnerable
to phony “**quick fix**” solutions.

Questions to ask ourselves:-

Have we ever felt bad that someone else
got more recognition than us?

Have we ever held back the full extent
of personal sin in order to seem
more spiritual than we really are?

Acts of Apostles 5:1-12; Lying to God.

**Have we ever been defensive
when confronted with personal failure?**

**The further we grow away from God,
the more important praise from others becomes.**

**Do we get really offended at the sins
of other people, and secretly know
we are guilty of the exact same thing?**

Acts of Apostles 5:1-12; Lying to God.

Positive signs to look for:-

Doing good without seeking credit!

**Allowing another to get credit
for something you did!**

**Admitting your sins to one another
and praying for each other! (James 5:16;)**

Acts of Apostles 5:1-12; Lying to God.

Excuses for concealing our failures:-

- **“I don’t want to make others stumble.”**

**They wouldn’t understand,
they’re so different from me.”**

- **“It was a special circumstance.”**
 - **“I already admitted this. . .”**

Acts of Apostles 5:1-12; Lying to God.

Question:-

Should we FEAR God?

“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matthew 10:28;

**“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.”
1 John 4:18;**

Acts of Apostles 5:1-12; Lying to God.

**Falsehood destroys fellowship and friendship!
Honesty with humility wins hearts!**

Key to avoiding hypocrisy:- GRACE.

**Understanding that God loves us and loved us
when we were ungodly how much more can
His Love and Forgiveness deal with our sin
NOW that we are His CHILDREN**

**Appreciating Gods grace, we work from
what we already are. Security in Christ allows us
to be authentic without fear.**

Acts of Apostles 5:1-12; Lying to God.

Hypocrisy is usually linked intimately to legalism.

**Grace gets the focus on God,
and off of what people think.**

Apostles Persecuted



Acts 5:12-42;





Temple Model.
Solomon's Colonnade across back.

Acts of Apostles 5:12-14; Finding God?

Solomon's Porch was part of
the Herod Temple complex.



Photo by Morris Cromer

Acts of Apostles 5:12-14; Finding God?

**“Solomon’s Porch (Portico / Colonnade)
was 800 feet long (nearly 3 football fields)
with 162 Corinthian Columns up to 100 feet tall.**



Photo by Morris Cromer

Acts of Apostles 5:12-14; Finding God?

12 “The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. All the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.”

13 “No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people.

14 Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.”

**God continued to work miracles
through the inspired apostles.**



He's trying to get the females attention

Acts of Apostles 5:12-14; Finding God?

Solomon's Colonnade was a great open air porch (colonnade) which was a portion of the east side of the temple called the court of the Gentiles built on foundations originally set by the order of Solomon.

**It was here in Acts 3:11; that Peter healed the cripple beggar and where Jesus had taught.
(John 10:23;)**

Acts of Apostles 5:12-14; Finding God?

Two categories of people:-

“No one else dared join them”

“More and more believed”

The Battle Restated:

Walk with Jesus? vs. Walk Away?

**In the spiritual battle of Satan against God,
there is **no MIDDLE GROUND.****

**There is no such thing as a HALF-WAY Christian.
(Luke 9:23-24;)**

Acts of Apostles 5:12-14; Finding God?

Although the multitudes were favourably disposed to the Apostles and the disciples, few were willing to risk the wrath of the Jewish rulers to make a public confession.

v13-14; seem to imply that the conversions were continuing in large numbers but in more private settings.

Acts of Apostles 5:12-14; Finding God?

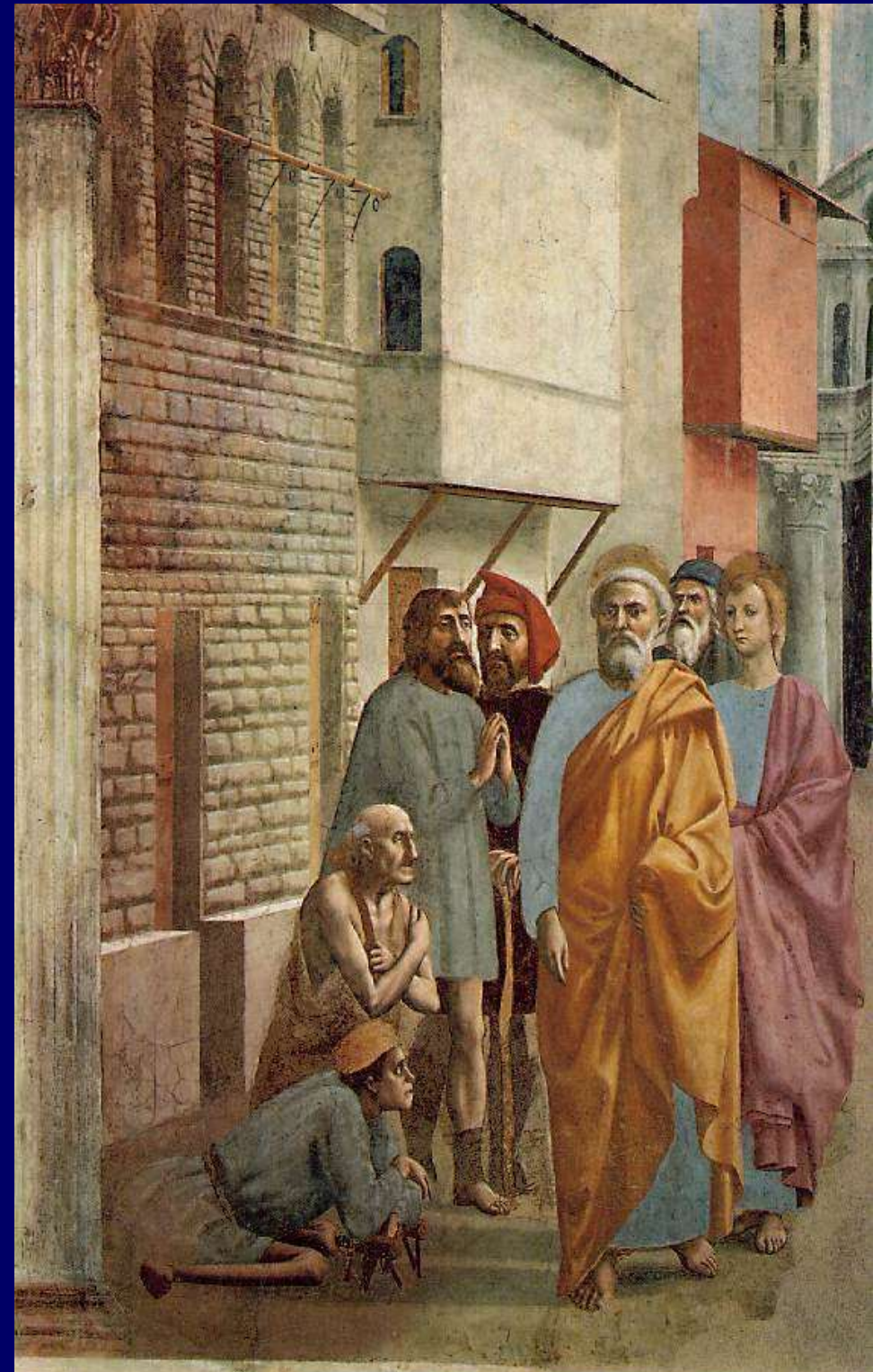
Question:- At least how many Christians met at Solomon's Colonnade?

**4 “But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.”
Acts 4:4;**



Acts 5;16; Peter's Shadow Heals.

What sounds to modern ears like a charlatan's stunt not only reflected genuine faith but was rewarded by complete healing success.



Acts of Apostles 5:15-16; Finding God?

15 “As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by.”

16 “Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.”



The Preaching Continued.

Acts of Apostles 5:15-16; Finding God?

Every day in Solomon's Colonnade, a place where Jews and Gentiles could gather in great numbers, the **Apostles preached and the miracles confirmed their word as the Word of God.**

The fake miracle workers of today tell people who come to them for healing but are NOT healed that their faith was just not strong enough.

Acts of Apostles 5:15-16; Finding God?

The fun and easy way to make
money off people's ignorance

Signs And Wonders FOR DUMMIES®

Lakeland Edition

For those that are

TIRED

of reading their Bible

Todd Bentley

Master huckster

How to use parlor
tricks for fun and
prophet



Are Signs and Wonders for Today?



Notice that the apostles exercise the apostolic gifts.
Gifts of healing and gifts of miracles
were **sign gifts which were given to the apostles.**
They did many signs among the people.

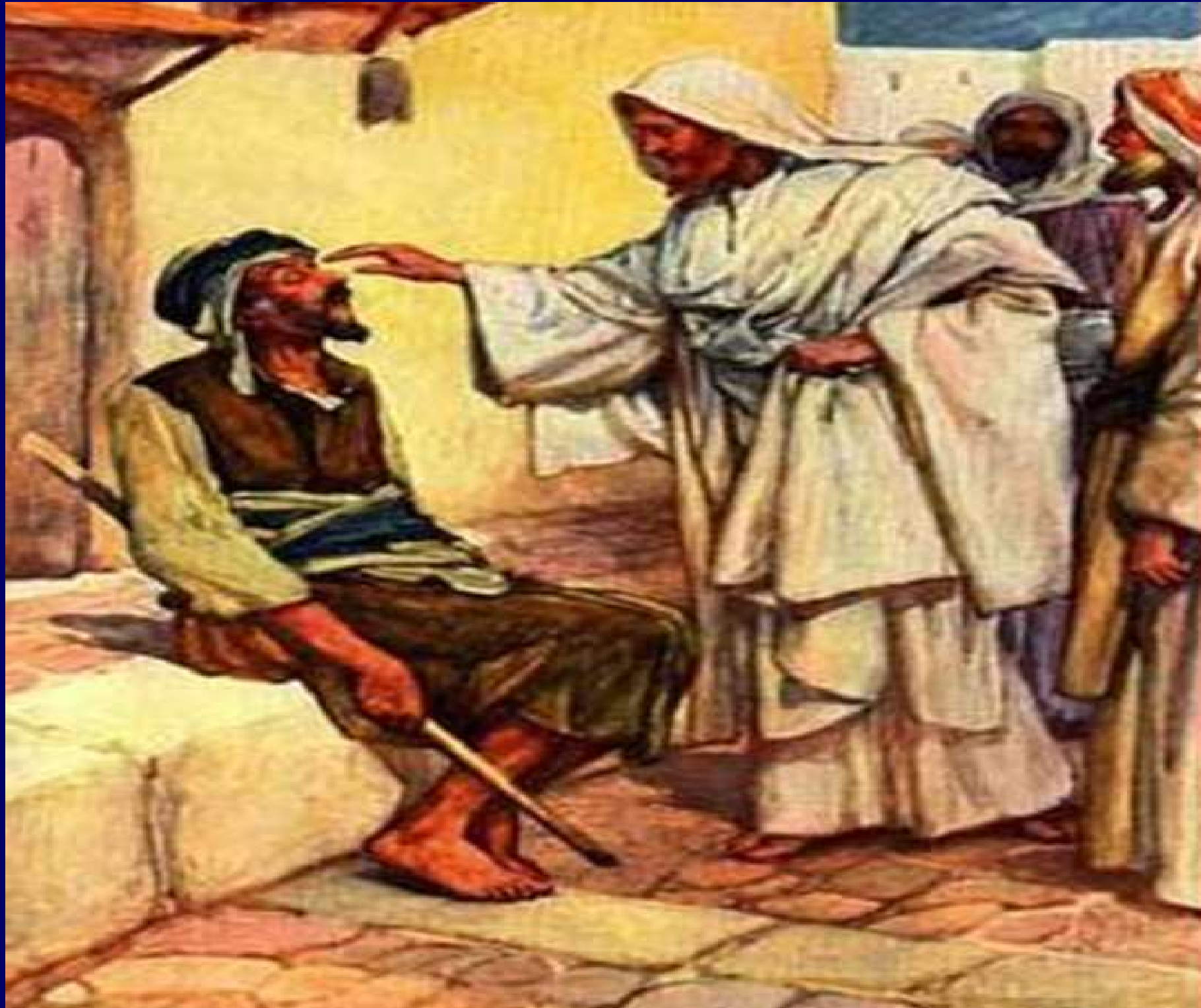
Acts of Apostles 5:15-16; Finding God?

We have already looked at the nature of Bible miracles. No one did or could question that they were real miracles.

There is one more important fact I want to mention:
NO ONE who came to **JESUS** or to an **APOSTLE**
to be healed was ever sent away
without being healed.

Verse 17 says, “**ALL** of them were healed.”
In Matthew 12:15 and Luke 6:19, the Bible (NKJV)
says **Jesus healed ALL who came to Him**
for healing. NO FAILURES THERE!

Bible Miracles.



Acts of Apostles 5:15-16; Bible Miracles?

Miracles were used
to confirm the words of the apostles.
The death of Ananias and Sapphira
could be viewed as a “**negative**” miracle
used to **confirm** the importance of truth..

The “**positive**” miracles were used to **confirm**
the words taught by the apostles. (Hebrews 2:1-4;)

Today, **our confirmation** is found
in the recorded miracles and teaching
in the inspired word of God.



**Jesus called them one by one,
Peter, Andrew, James and John.
Then came Philip, Thomas too,
Matthew and Bartholomew,**

**James, the one they call "the Less,"
Simon, also Thaddeus.
The twelfth apostle Judas made,
Jesus was by him betrayed.**



**Twelve in all, he called to him.
"Apostles," was His name for them.
They went out to "fish for men,"
Faithfully they followed him.**

**From His baptism by John,
And to His resurrection,
It became their special call
To bear their witness to it all.**

**All Jesus Christ had said and done.
All were faithful - all but one.
And their testimony true,
Can also be believed by you.**

**They maintained it until their death,
And always spoke by Spirit's breath.
The Spirit spoke through them God's word,
Reminding them of what they'd heard,**

**Allowing them to do great signs,
And to pen the Bible's lines.
All were martyred for their Lord
To confirm the gospel word.**



ALL BUT ONE



**At a hundred years or more,
John embarked for heaven's shore
The only one who was not killed.
His prophet's mission, he fulfilled.**

**"Apostle" means one who is sent.
To all the world apostles went.
Their word today is just as good
As when upon the earth they stood.**



**The gospel message will not change,
So we must not rearrange
God's system or his teaching.
Let's not be overreaching.**

Search the Scriptures!



Acts 4:32 to 5:16;

**Prepared by
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Next in the series:- Acts 5:17 to 5:42;