



# **The Couple That Got Killed at Church!**


## **Acts 5:1-11**



# Why Is This Story Written?


**This Story Is Written as a Grave Warning to Early Christians and Present Day Believers!**

- I don't believe that the historians would have included this story if this were just a chronicled account of the early church
- The Holy Spirit saw a moral and spiritual value to have Luke, the physician, include this tragedy



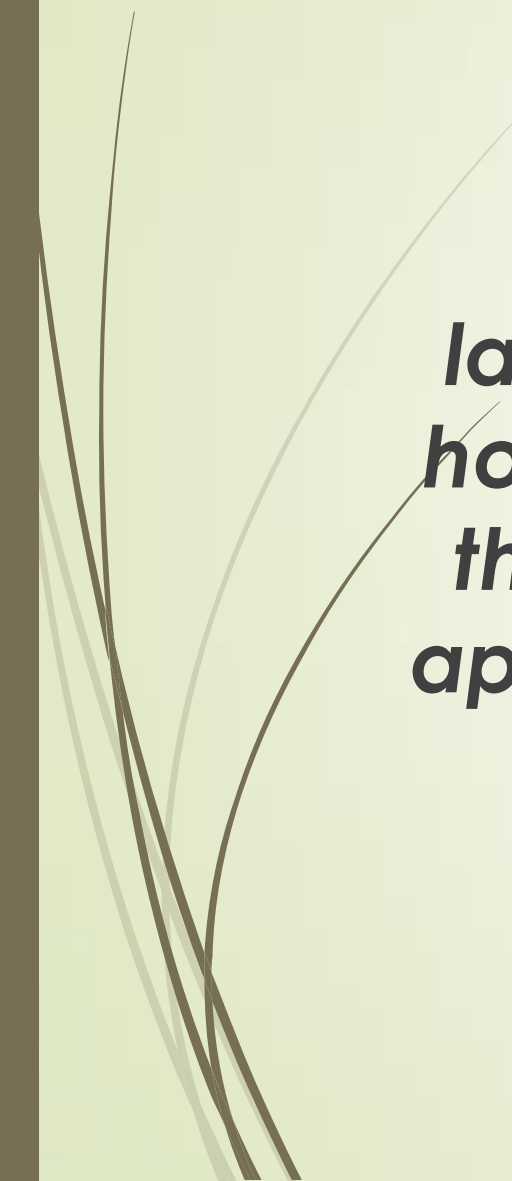
# The Story Actually Begins in Chapter Four


- This new church, that belonged to Christ, was growing numerically and in togetherness
- They loved and prayed for one another as they began to undergo persecution from without.
- Peter and John, who faced the real prospect of death early on during the church's infancy, were instead beaten, warned against speaking for Christ, and released
- The early church shared their earthly goods with one another
- No one in the church was impoverished (Acts 4:34)



## Acts 4:34-37

***“Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each one as anyone had need.”***





***“And Joses, who also was named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.”***

## **But Satan Comes to Church Too!**

***Satan Will Always Try To Infiltrate The Sanctuary Of God!***

***“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.” Job 1:6 (See 1Peter 5:8)***



## Acts 5:1-2

*“But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles’ feet.”*

- I don't think that it is merely happenstance of the contrast given by Luke, writing Acts, between Barnabas' character and Ananias' character
- Of all of the charitable donations of money being freely given by the early church members, Luke highlights Barnabas in verses 36-37 and Ananias in 5:1-2



# Observations

- **It's obvious to me that Ananias and Sapphira witnessed the excitement that Barnabas' gift and popularity had brought to the church and their trouble began with jealousy of the reaction to his generous offering**
- **They sought to be admired for their generosity and be honored members of the church**



Remember This Point:

**WHAT YOU DO MAY NOT BE A REFLECTION OF  
WHO YOU ARE!**

**WHAT YOU DO MAY CONVERSELY REPRESENT  
WHO YOU ARE!**

***(Remember the Judas Kiss)***

***Ananias and Sapphira Were After A Position  
In People's Hearts and Not After GOD!***






Jesus Said In the Long Ago:

***“BY THEIR FRUITS YOU  
WILL KNOW THEM”***

***Matthew 7:20***

***(It takes a while for fruit to grow!)***





# **A Bishop's Characteristics Take Time To See! (1 Timothy 3:1-7)**

- Blameless, Husband of One Wife, Temperate**
- Sober-minded, Of Good Behavior, Hospitable**
- Able to Teach, Not Given to Wine**
- Not Violent, Not Greedy for Money, Gentle**
- Not Quarrelsome, Not Covetous, Rules His House Well, Not A Novice, Good Testimony With Outsiders**



Wives, Notice What The Scriptures Say About Sapphira in Ananias' Deception Against the Church In Acts 5:2

***“And he kept back a part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it,.....***

**There is a Question I Always Ask Women When Counseling Them Considering Marriage:**

***When Is It Justifiable in a Marriage to not Honor Your Husband?***



# WHEN HE REFUSES TO OBEY GOD!

*Sapphira Didn't Have To Drop Dead  
Because Ananias Did!(They had  
talked and agreed)*



## Peter Addressed Ananias at Church!

***“.....Ananias why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the price of the land for yourself ? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart?” You have not lied to men but to God.”***



# Observations In Closing:

- Our personal decisions effect the holiness of the church
- What if God had not acted decisively and let the deception be missed by the leadership?
- What if it had been published that Ananias and Sapphira's "loving financial gift" to the church was **ALL** of the money from property they had sold? (And the buyer knew he paid more than that!)
- This would have not only discredited Ananias and Sapphira, but the entire church



## Then What Would Have Happened:

- **Grumbling against the church by its own members would have happened**
- **The “haters” of the church would have called it “The Laughing Stock” of Jerusalem**

***But God Acted Sovereignly And The Fear Of The Lord Was Restored!***

# Observations

- I am not going to speculate about the eternal destination of Ananias and Sapphira in this lesson
- Their judgment is in the hands of a just and merciful God and He will do what is right
- Please think about the gospel and whether you should repent or not
- Repentance is not just a nice thought, it is mandatory
- We all deserve condemnation, but His grace and mercy is available to those who follow his will, and repent.....there are consequences





# The Plan Of Salvation



<b>Hear the Gospel</b>	<b>Acts 15:7</b>
<b>Believer the Gospel</b>	<b>Acts 15:7</b>
<b>Repent Of Sins</b>	<b>Acts 17:30</b>
<b>Confess Christ</b>	<b>Acts 8:37</b>
<b>Be Baptized</b>	<b>Acts 8:38</b>