

Remember to Whom Your Promise Are Made

Acts 5:1-16

I. Ananias and Sapphira Cared about God

A. Ananias and had resources. But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, ***sold a possession***, (ACTS 5:1)

B. Knowing what they were doing, the two attempted get credit for something they did not do. And ***kept back part*** of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and ***brought a certain part***, and laid it at the apostles' feet. (ACTS 5:2)

C. The same kind of problem occurred during the conquest of Canaan. Israel hath sinned, and ***they have also transgressed my covenant*** which I commanded them: for ***they have even taken of the accursed thing***, and have also ***stolen***, and ***dissembled*** also, and they have ***put it even among their own stuff***. Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned *their* backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: ***neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.*** (JOSHUA 7:11-12)

D. God takes vows seriously; it is dangerous to attempt to deceive Him. But ***cursed be the deceiver***, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and ***sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing***: for I *am* a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name *is* dreadful among the heathen. (MALACHI 1:14) ***along with Ye are cursed*** with a curse: ***for ye have robbed me***, even this whole nation. (MALACHI 3:9)

E. Confused priorities distort and ruin. For the ***love of money is the root of all evil***: which while some coveted after, ***they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves*** through with many sorrows. (1 TIMOTHY 6:10)

II. Ananias and Sapphira Cared about Themselves More

A. The two did something half-right and half-right is all wrong. And ***kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it***, and brought a certain part, ***and laid it at the apostles' feet.*** (ACTS 5:2)

B. Peter exposed the deception. But Peter said, Ananias, ***why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?*** Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? ***why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.*** (ACTS 5:3-4)

C. Ananias died on the spot. And Ananias ***hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost***: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And ***the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.*** (ACTS 5:5-6)

D. God takes Christians and what they say seriously. (For ***the weapons of our warfare are not carnal***, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) ***Casting down imaginations***, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and ***bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ***; And having ***in a readiness to revenge all disobedience***, when your obedience is fulfilled. (2 CORINTHIANS 10:4-6)

E. Sapphira was as guilty as Ananias. And it was about the space of three hours after, *when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.* And Peter answered unto her, ***Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much?*** And she said, ***Yea***, for so much. (ACTS 5:7-8)

F. What Sapphira said mattered just as much as what her husband said. Then Peter said unto her, ***How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord?*** behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband *are* at the door, and shall carry thee out. ***Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost:*** and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying *her* forth, buried *her* by her husband. (ACTS 5:9-10)

H. God has never valued “mitigating factors” like a contemporary judge. If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or ***the wife of thy bosom***, or thy friend, ***which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly***, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers; *Namely*, of the gods of the people which *are* round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the *one* end of the earth even unto the *other* end of the earth; ***Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him:*** (DEUTERONOMY 13:6-8)

III. People of the Word Must Be Serious about Words

A. Taking oaths seriously gets public attention. And ***great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard*** these things. And ***by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought*** among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s porch. And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. ***And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.***) (ACTS 5:11-14)

B. The Biblical God is no pushover. God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all *them that are* about him. (PSALM 89:7)

C. Apply god’s standard to your promises and vows during the week of preparation for communion. LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? ***who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly***, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. *He that* backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. ***In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.*** *He that* putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these *things* shall never be moved. (PSALM 15:1-5)