

ACTS 5a

Introduction (Re-Cap)

The ministry of the Holy Spirit that was given on Pentecost has completely filled the new church and the lives of her believers in just four chapters. The summary or clue on how these one time strangers became so unified is capture in chapters 2:44; 4:13; and 4:32.

1. Why is it significant for the writer of Acts (Luke) to emphasize in scripture the Believer's unity?
2. In what ways did Peter, John and the other Apostles (Leadership) exemplify unity?
3. What do you think could be the **MOST** significant reason the Holy Spirit galvanized the early church and believers in unity?
4. Can you list the FOUR actions that the Apostles and believers take In Chapter 4?
5. What ministry actions stands out after reading Chapter 5? Why do you think the Holy Spirit led Dr. Luke to include these ministry actions?
6. Who was Ananias & Sapphira? Barnabas; Gamaliel; The Sanhedrin?
7. What can we learn from each of them that represents the Church?
8. What did the Apostles and disciples learn from the movement in Chapter 5?

ACTS 5b

I. The Setting

- **A. Spirit of Unity (oneness).** Everyone was on one accord in the Spirit. There was a spirit of **unity in the community** of believers (4:32). Evidenced by a shared understanding that “all that we have or possess is from God. When believers take on this mindset, the door is open for unsolicited generosity. The believers were giving from their heart and not their head. Everyone knew of the needs of the Body. Thus, the new disciples began giving to a NEED that was greater than themselves and at the same time inclusive of their need. The giving of disciples like Barnabas represented a sense of selling out or investing into a work that was GREATER because they knew it was God’s work and God was at work in Body.
- **B. Spirit of Deception (Disunity).** (5:1-3) The decision of Ananias (God is gracious) and his wife Sapphira (Beautiful) to deceive or lie to the Apostle Peter and the believers came with deathly consequences. Their sin was not lying to Peter, but lying to the Holy Spirit. People lie to you and to me and will continue to do so, but to lie to the Holy Spirit that is dwelling within a (professed) Christian’s life, carries with it severe punishment. Withholding part of the money for their own use was not a sin, (5:4). Nowhere were the believers commanded to give everything or all that they had. Their giving was voluntarily (2 Cor. 9:7). The overt SIN was LYING by publicly pretending to have given all of the proceeds of the sale of the property. The deeper more devastating SIN was HYPOCRISY.

ACTS 5c

- The one SIN that drew constant rebuke from Jesus was the sin of hypocrisy (Matthew 6:1-6; 15:7 22:18; 23:13-36). Our Lord also warned that Hell would be populated by hypocrites! (Matt. 24:51)

C. Spiritual and Physical Punishment – DEATH! (5:5-10) Both Ananias and Sapphira died in the very same place they told the lie. God moved swiftly to remove the spiritual cancer from the body. They died in the CHURCH. They died in the Church spiritually long before they died in the Church physically. A scenario that is still being played out in our day. After spiritual death, all hope is gone.