

The Curious Case of Ananias and Sapphira

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Acts: 5:1-11

Theme: what happens when we pretended to be someone we are not

Acts 5:1-11

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property,² and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?⁴ While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God."⁵ When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.⁶ The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

⁷After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.⁸ And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you^a sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much."⁹ But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."¹⁰ Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.¹¹ And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

Next Steps:

1. Examine your attitude towards the ministry you are involved in
2. Revisit your values and calling given by God
3. Pray for the Holy Spirit's empowerment and transformation to be more like Christ

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever done something out of peer pressure? How did it turn out?
2. Have you ever participated in a ministry for any reason other than God's prompting? Why did you do it?
3. What are some ways that have helped you to stay focused and grounded in God as you live out your life as a Christian at work, at home, and at church?
4. Have you seen hypocrisy at church? How have you avoided being a hypocrite yourself?