**THE DRASTIC CONSEQUENCES OF DISUNITY**

**Acts 5:1-11**

**THE BIG IDEA: God blesses us to be a blessing; when we are selfish and deceitful we bring judgement on ourselves and harm God’s Church.**

**SATAN CAN STILL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ CHRISTIANS IF CHRISTIANS ARE NOT ON GUARD**

* *“But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. 2 However, he kept back part of the proceeds with his wife’s knowledge, and brought a portion of it and laid it at the apostles’ feet. ‘Ananias,’ Peter asked, ‘why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the proceeds of the land? Wasn’t it yours while you possessed it? And after it was sold, wasn’t it at your disposal?’”* (Acts 5:1-4a)
* **Christians must always be on guard against the deception of Satan.**
* *“Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.”* (1 Peter 5:8)
* *“Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”* (James 4:7)
* *“Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil.”* (Ephesians 6:11)

**THE LORD ISSUES A GREATER \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ON THOSE WHO HARM GOD’S CHURCH**

* *“’Why is it that you planned this thing in your heart? You have not lied to people but to God.’ 5 When he heard these words, Ananias dropped dead, and a great fear came on all who heard. 6 The young men got up, wrapped his body, carried him out, and buried him.”* (Acts 5:4b-6)
* **When it comes to those who hurt God’s people, His Church, some will experience holy judgement immediately, and others when they stand before the Lord.**
* *“Don’t you yourselves know that you are God’s temple and that the Spirit of God lives in you? 17 If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is holy, and that is what you are.”* (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)
* **The Church is the bride of Christ and He will protect His bride until the day He returns.**
* *“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”* (Matthew 16:18)

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**OUR COMMITMENT TO \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ THE LORD SHOULD SUPERCEDE ANY EARTHLY RELATIONSHIP**

* *“About three hours later, his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 ‘Tell me,’ Peter asked her, ‘did you sell the land for this price?’*

*‘Yes,’ she said, ‘for that price.’ Then Peter said to her, ‘Why did you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.’ 10 Instantly she dropped dead at his feet. When the young men came in, they found her dead, carried her out, and buried her beside her husband. 11 Then great fear came on the whole church and on all who heard these things.”* (Acts 5:7-11)

* **Placing value and commitment on any relationship above the Lord, including our spouse, will certainly lead to our demise**
* *“He said to him, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. 38 This is the greatest and most important command.’”* (Matthew 22:37-38)
* **The way we demonstrate that we love the Lord supremely is by surrendering everything we are, and everything we have to His Lordship.**
* Jesus - *“No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”* (Matthew 6:24)
* **Ananias and Saphira were not obligated to sell their land and give it to the Church, but because did and then chose to be deceitful with the proceeds, they were lying to the Holy Spirit and hurting the fellow believers.**

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**ICE-BREAKER:** What Scripture is most meaningful to you in the Bible?

**START THINKING:**

* What are some main themes/ideas in Acts 5:1-11?
* How is Ananias & Saphira’s behavior different from Barnabus?
* Why did the Lord take Ananias and Saphira’s life?

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

* What thoughts come to mind when you read this scenario?
* Why was the Lord right in what He did to Ananias & Saphira?
* What does this scenario teach you about integrity?
* How do you guard against being tempted by Satan?
* How are you doing in the areas of unity and generosity?
* Who are you inviting to Church next Sunday?

**OUR COMMITMENT TO \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ THE LORD SHOULD SUPERCEDE ANY EARTHLY RELATIONSHIP**

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