



MONEY, LIES, AND THE FEAR OF GOD

Acts 5:1-11 // Dr. Ron Jones

The early church experienced explosive growth. Peter preached his first sermon on the day of Pentecost and 3,000 people came to faith; 5,000 more believers were added when he preached his second sermon. But all was not right. Deception crept into the church and the sobering judgment of God fell upon the early believers. What lessons can we learn from the lies of Ananias and Sapphira?

1. _____ is evidence of real faith.

Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus,³⁷ sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. ACTS 4:36-37 ESV

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 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. ACTS 5:1-2 ESV

2. _____ matters.

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? ... You have not lied to man but to God." ACTS 5:3-5 ESV

So [David] shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them with his skillful hands. PSALM 78:73 NAS

3. The _____ is always looking for an opportunity to _____.

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart ..." ACTS 5:3

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 PETER 5:8 ESV

And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from [Jesus] until an opportune time. LUKE 4:13 ESV

4. God is _____ and deserving of our _____.

And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things. ACTS 5:11 ESV

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. HEBREWS 10:31

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire. HEBREWS 12:28-29 ESV