

## Acts 5:1-11 **Ananias & Sapphira**

1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. 2 And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part 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 keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? 4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." 5 Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. 6 And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.

7 Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." 9 Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together 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 Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband.

11 So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things. NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

- ✚ The move of the early Church in Jerusalem was one of communal sharing, so everyone received equal benefit and everyone was involved, Barnabas sold his property on Cyprus and gave the proceeds to the Apostles. [Acts 2:44-47, 4:32-37]
- ✚ Ananias & Sapphira decided to attempt to gain equal renown among the Believers by selling a property of theirs and bringing some of the proceeds to the Apostles claiming it was the whole price they received, but secretly keeping back some for themselves. [Acts 5:1-11]
- ✚ The Holy Spirit gave Peter a word of knowledge revealing the deceit, and Peter asked if the gift was indeed the full price, it being their right to hold back some since it was their own property, but they lied about it saying it was all.
- ✚ They died because of the lie, the Holy Spirit knows the truth.
- ✚ Peter said, you have lied to God not to men, and it became a test of the Spirit of the Lord.
- ✚ Jesus had previously said, It is written, you shall not tempt the Lord your God. [Matthew 4:7, Luke 4:12, Deuteronomy 6:16]
  - ✧ How often we desire to look good in the eyes of people around us and we allow ourselves to be caught up in hypocrisy not considering our pretense is fully open and known to God.
  - ✧ We answer to God, not to men, and God will call us to make a full accounting for what we have said and done in this life.
- ✚ In the case of Ananias and Sapphira, God established a legal precedent and made them an example to others in the Church. It worked well.
- ✚ So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things. [Acts 5:5, 11]
  - ✧ The Church learned quickly not to take the Saving grace, mercy, and power of God casually.
- ✚ As in the displays of God's power in the Old Testament, God taught us not to take His love for granted or act presumptuously, showing disrespect toward His commandments.
  - ✧ God wants us to abstain from the very appearance of evil, and to fully seek God's will and righteousness and purity in every aspect of our lives.

