

ACTS 5:1-16

Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property.² With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

³ Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴ Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

⁵ When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. ⁶ Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

⁷ About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸ Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"

"Yes," she said, "that is the price."

⁹ Peter said to her, "How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

¹⁰ At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹ Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

¹² The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. ¹³ No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.

¹⁵ As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by.

¹⁶ Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

| Can you recall a time from your childhood when you stole something or told a lie
| about money or possessions?

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| How was the early church expressing extravagant generosity? How did Ananias
+ and Sapphira follow those within the community, and where did they go wrong?

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| How did Peter confront Ananias, and then Sapphira? What did Peter reveal about
| the nature of the sin?

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| What was the consequence of the sin? What does the passage reveal about the
| severity of the sin in God's eyes? In what ways do we minimize the seriousness of
| sin in our world?

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| The first-century Apostles were empowered to do many miraculous things. How
| did the work of God through them affect those inside and outside of the church?

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| In what ways can you apply this passage to your life today?

DAILY READINGS

1. LEVITICUS 10:1-20
2. JOSHUA 7:1-26
3. PSALM 15:1-5
4. MARK 7:1-23
5. 1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-13
6. ACTS 5:1-11
7. ACTS 5:12-16