

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira?
2. Why did they commit this sin?
3. Why was Ananias and Sapphira punished so severely? [SoF:14]
4. How did this incident benefit the church? (1 Timothy 5:20) [SoF:14]

SUMMARY:

God has no pleasure in a hypocrite (Isaiah 9:17). Yet perhaps Christians sometimes displease God with this fruit of the devil, because it is so hard to detect and purge out of our own lives. It is so easy to see hypocrisy in others, isn't it? But only by the closest scrutiny of our own lives can we determine just what motivates our every action. What others see in us isn't always what God sees. We can become whited sepulchers full of dead men's bones (Matthew 23:27).

NOTES:

[SoF:14] We believe in the exercise of discipline by the church in order to deal with the presence of sin in the lives of its members.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #8

November 19, 2023

Fourth Quarter

HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCH

LESSON TEXT: *Acts 5:1-11*

LESSON SETTING: In the vicinity of Jerusalem.

TIME: Approximately 35 A.D. during the early years of the church.

I. HYPOCRISY PERPETRATED. Acts 5:1-2

- A. Pharisees. Matthew 23:15; Luke 18:11
- B. Israel. Isaiah 65:5; Ezekiel 33:31
- C. Church. Romans 2:17-23; 2 Timothy 3:5

II. HYPOCRISY PERCEIVED. Acts 5:3-4

- A. By God. Isaiah 29:15-16; Revelation 3:17
- B. By Christ. Matthew 22:18; 26:49, 60
- C. By Man. Acts 8:20-23; 1 Peter 2:1

III. HYPOCRISY PUNISHED. Acts 5:5-11

- A. Cain. Genesis 4:3-7
- B. Absalom. 2 Samuel 18:9-11
- C. Simon. Acts 8:21

**GOLDEN TEXT: A FALSE WITNESS SHALL NOT BE UNPUNISHED
AND HE THAT SPEAKETH LIES SHALL PERISH.**

Proverbs 19:9

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Acts 5:12-42
SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: 2 Samuel 5:17-25

QUARTERLY THEME: The Early Church

TOPIC: A DIVINE DELIVERANCE

INTRODUCTION:

“But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth; and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.” (Acts 5:19-20)

What a time of rejoicing this deliverance must have been for these apostles. But they did not seek safety in their homes to rejoice. Instead they faithfully obeyed the voice of the Lord and returned to the very place where they had been captured and then imprisoned. Surely they knew the high priest would again persecute them, but they knew God’s command and their whole-hearted desire was to obey. Their love for Him and faith in Him made them obey whether they would again be delivered or not.

They were beaten but not imprisoned, and they went their way rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer for Him. Can we do the same? Are we willing to endanger ourselves to witness for Him? Can we rejoice when we are persecuted for Him?

CENTRAL TRUTH: God works on behalf of those who give Him first place in their lives.

GOLDEN TEXT: *WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN.*
Acts 5:29

Peter and the other apostles had feared the God of their fathers since childhood. They had walked with Jesus for three years during His ministry and He had taught them of His Father and of the Gospel of Grace. Yet, during Jesus’ trial and crucifixion they had forsaken or denied Him. What a change the Holy Spirit made in their lives! They now boldly could say, “we ought to obey God rather than men.” They knew that God gave the Holy Ghost to those that obey Him. (Acts 5:32) They knew also that it was by the power of the Holy Spirit that they could continue to obey in spite of all opposition.

We can know about the Grace of God through Christ, His Son, but unless we allow the Spirit to be our guide and strength, we will fail in our efforts to obey God rather than men.

Spirit, Thou of faith, of power
Of obedience, discipline;
Author of God’s works, Endower
Of His gifts in hearts of men!
Spirit of the holy sages,
Prophets, kings, apostles true.
And the martyrs of all ages, -
Also us with strength endue.

Z.H. 175:9

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF November 20 – 26

- Mon. Israel’s Deliverance. Exodus 15:1-13
- Tue. A Song of Deliverance. Psalm 28:1-9
- Wed. Jeremiah’s Deliverance. Jeremiah 38:6-13
- Tue. *The Leaders’ Hatred. Acts 5:12-23
- Fri. *The Leaders’ Perplexity. Acts 5:24-28
- Sat. *The Apostles’ Courage. Acts 5:29-32
- Sun. *Gamaliel’s Wise Advice. Acts 5:33-42

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