

"ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA"

ACTS 4:36-5:11

I. AN EXAMPLE OF SINCERE & GENUINE SACRIFICE (4:36-37)

- A. Joses (Barnabas) Is Singled Out For Several Reasons
- B. Joses' Selfless Act Actually Became The Occasion For The Subterfuge That Followed

II. AN EXAMPLE OF HYPOCRISY THROUGH A DISHONEST IMITATION (5:1-11)

- A. The Core Issue Behind What Ananias & Sapphira Actually Did (5:1-2)
 - 1. They Were Not Punished Simply Because They Sinned In The Church
 - 2. They Were Not Punished Because They Failed To Make A Financial Contribution
 - 3. They Were Not Punished Because They Failed To Give Everything As Barnabas Did
 - 4. They Were Punished Because Of The Pretense That "Part" Was "All"
- B. The Source Behind This Hypocrisy (5:3-4,9)
 - 1. The Initial Suggestion Was Spawned By The Devil (5:3)
 - a. A Wicked Spirit May Suggest Something To A Human Spirit Just As Directly & Understandably As One Wicked Person May Speak To A Christian
 - b. It Is Difficult To Accept The Fact That Not All Of A Person's Thoughts Are Initially His Own
 - 2. The Suggestion Is Given Birth In The Mind Of Ananias (5:4)

3. That Which Was First Conceived In One Becomes A Marital Agreement (5:9)
 - a. A Wife's Submission To Her Husband Ends When The Husband Encourages Her To Sin
 - b. Peter Actually Uses A Term For "Embezzlement"

- C. There Were Actually Two Sins Committed Against The Holy Spirit
 1. They Lied To God (5:3)
 2. They Lied To Someone Else Who Knew (5:9)

- D. The Death Dealing Judgment Of God (5:10-11)
 1. For Ananias, There Was No Opportunity For Repentance (5:5)
 2. We've Become So Accustomed To The Grace Of God That We Are Horrified By The Immediacy Of This Judgment
 3. The Whole Purpose For The Judgment Was To Spread A Healthy Fear Of God Through The Church (5:5,11)