

Acts of Jesus, Lesson 15: Lying Tongues

- ❖ Our passage is sandwiched between two status reports of the early church:
- ❖ **vv. 32-37**
- ❖ **vv. 12-16**
- ❖ Sandwiched in between, is these two status reports, we have the record of the of the deception and ultimate deaths of Ananias and Sapphira.

Acts 5:1-11

1. What actually happened here?

- No one forced them to give anything—the decision to give was entirely up to them.
So, what went wrong?
- 1. They loved their money
- 2. They wanted to look more generous than they actually were
- 3. So, they lied – their sin was not in holding back some of the money but in lying about it.

2. What does this mean for us?

- Does God always judge the sin of lying in this way? **Apparently not**
- So why didn't Ananias and Sapphira live through it -- wrong place at the wrong time
- God judges all sin-- sometimes for the believer the discipline for sin is physical death

3. So, what can we learn here?

1. Lying is a very serious sin --- when we lie we are lying to the Spirit who indwells the church – we are putting Him to the test
 - When we sin at all it is tantamount to putting the Spirit to the test – because it says “maybe He’s not here” “Maybe, He’s not looking”
2. Lying is the antithesis of who God is —
 - One of 7 things that Proverbs specifically says that God hates.
 - Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life
 - Nearly 80 times in the N.T. Jesus makes the statement, “I tell you the truth”!!!
 - The Holy Spirit is Himself “the Spirit of truth” as John calls Him several times in his gospel and letters.
 - Satan is the father of lies and the deceiver
 - Church is the “pillar and foundation of the truth” **I Tim. 3:15**
 - Church is to speak the truth in love and put away falsehood.
 - Lying is a particular affront to God, the mission of the Church and who we are.

4. God made an example out of Ananias and Sapphira --- what lessons can we glean from there example?

1. Be committed to integrity == truth on the smallest and seemingly insignificant levels.
 - Serious sins often have subtle beginnings – I don’t think that this couple sat down at the dinner table one night and said to each other **“Let’s come up with a plan to sell some property and give only part to the church but lie about it”**
 - Small lie is not acceptable and opens the door for bigger lies
 - **Ps. 51:6** -- This is more than just small lies --- thoughts and intents of our heart need to truthful.
2. Be Committed to the Truth no matter how much it may hurt.
3. We need to do everything as to the Lord and know that lying of any kind is lying to Him.