

Morals: Ananias & Sapphira

(Acts 5:1-11)

Introduction:

1. When God makes mention of a person in Scripture, there must be a reason for it; a lesson to learn.
2. There are many people who have been “lost in the credits” that need to be re-discovered.
3. Read and then ask...What can I learn from this?
4. What can we learn about Ananias & Sapphira.

I. Had Either Of Them Been A Better Spouse, The Whole Thing Would Not Have Happened

- A. (Acts 5:1-2).
- B. One of the blessing of marriage is that you have someone who can be strong when you are weak (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).
 1. Ills. - Bonanza (Little Joe, Hoss, Adam, Ben, Hop Sing).
- C. (Genesis 3:1-13; Romans 5:12).
- D. I know of no single factor that has more to do with your faithfulness to God than your spouse.
- E. Ramifications of marrying a non-Christian.
 1. People seldom change for the better.
 2. Different values lead to serious conflict.
 3. Children.

II. They Were Both Guilty of Lying

- A. (Acts 5:3-4,9).
- B. (Revelation 21:8).
- C. “We need to teach our children to lie. To lie judicially, and mercifully but never maliciously.” - The Reformer.
- D. "Is adultery wrong? To ask this question is to ask a mare's nest question. It is a glittering generality, like Oscar Wilde's mackerel in the moonlight: it glitters but it stinks. One can only respond, 'I don't know. Maybe. Give me a case. Describe a real situation.' Or perhaps somebody will ask if a man should ever lie to his wife, or desert his family, or spy on a business rival's design or market plans, or fail to report some income item in his tax return. Again, the answer cannot be an answer, it can only be another question. 'Have you a real question, that is to say, a concrete situation?' If it has to do with premarital sex or libel or breach of contract or anything else (you name it), the reply is always the same: 'You are using words, abstractions. What you are asking is without substance; it has no living reality. There is no way to answer such questions.'" (Situation Ethics: The New Morality, Joseph Fletcher, pp. 142-143).
- E. (Romans 3:8).
- F. (Proverbs 6:16-19) Seven things God hates.
- G. The ends do not justify the means (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

III. They Were Proud

- A. The reason for their giving was not to help the poor, but to make a name for themselves.
- B. (Proverbs 16:18; 6:16-19).
- C. Can you serve when no one knows or no one cares (Hebrews 6:10).
- D. (Mark 9:41).

IV. They Were Short-Sighted

- A. God sees all and knows all.
- B. (Ecclesiastes 12:14).
- C. Many attempt to hide their sins.
- D. There is freedom in moral living (Romans 13:3).
 1. Ills. - boy who kills grandmother's bird and blackmailed by his sister
- E. A morality that does not consider accountability is bound to become degenerate.

Conclusion:

1. What if God dealt with us today as he did with Ananias and Sapphira?
 - A. “All to Jesus, I Surrender”

- B. "None of Self, And All of Thee"
 - C. "I Want to be a Worker for the Lord"
 - D. "I Love to Tell the Story"
2. The fact that judgment doesn't occur immediately as it did with Ananias and Sapphira, doesn't mean that God doesn't know and won't hold us accountable.
 3. Brethren, develop the kind of morals that will allow you to stand before the judgment seat of Christ and say as David did, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24)