

Sermon Notes

“When Striking a Pose”

Acts 4:32 – 5:11

November 4, 2018

e. How could Ananias and Sapphira have acted differently?

4. This is one of two detailed judgment miracles in Acts (see also 13:11). ... This kind of instant judgment is unique in the NT, although it is suggested in a text like 1 Cor. 11:30 about how some have died for taking the Lord's supper inappropriately. (Darrell Bock, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, Acts, Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, MI, 2007, p. 219-20).

a. If the incident makes us feel uncomfortable, it should. How did the early church respond to these events (5:5, 11)? What point does this repetition drive home?

b. When have you been afraid of the Lord? In what way is it appropriate to be afraid of God?

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

Tim and Sherry Thomas - AWANA missionaries

Pray as Tim and Sherry assist 6 churches that are launching brand new AWANA Programs.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 11-04-18

Questions adapted from Phyllis J. Le Peau, Acts: Seeing God's Power in Action, A LifeGuide Bible Study, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 2002, pp. 20-21; James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 193-4; Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Acts: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 67-69.

Getting Started:

1. When was a time you kept a gift that you had planned to give away?

Digging Deeper:

Read Acts 4:32 – 5:11.

2. Luke noted in 2:44-45 that the believers felt such unity that each spent his own possessions when others were in need. He expands on this theme in 4:32-5:11 with a positive and a negative example.
 - a. What four qualities marked the early church community (4:32-33)?
 - b. How was the Old Testament ideal which God set forth for Israel in Deuteronomy 15:4 realized by the members of the early church (4:34-35)?
 - c. What was exemplary about Barnabas (4:36-37)?

- d. What is difficult about sharing the things we have?

- e. How can you be generous toward your Christian family?

3. The story of Ananias and Sapphira shows Luke's frankness in that not everything was free of sin in the community.

- a. How did Ananias' and Sapphira's transaction compare with Barnabas' (5:1-2)?

- b. What exactly was Ananias' sin(s) (5:1-4)? (For instance, was it wrong in itself not to give all the proceeds from the sale of his land to the church?)

- c. What do you think might have motivated him?

- d. In what ways do we sometimes try to gain undue credit or recognition?