

Acts 5

Acts 5.1-11

V1 – "But" – **In contrast to whom?** Barnabas

-**Why did they sell property?** Maybe because they saw others doing it, or maybe because the praise of others

V2 – **Why are some people hypocrites?** Maybe because they want the praise of the church today

-Note the name Ananias

-The name of the high priest (*Acts 23.2*)

-The name of the man sent to baptize Paul (*Acts 22*)

-So this was a good Jewish name, like Daniel, John, etc.

V3 – **What was the sin of Ananias?** Lying

V4 – **Did Ananias have to sell the property?** No

-Notice that this is the first sin recorded by any member of the church (and it involved money and lying)

V5 – **A value to fear?** Yes

V6 – **Why no funeral and no casket?** There was no embalming in the first century, and the body had to be buried quickly because of the hot climate

-Dead bodies would be "unclean"

V7 – **Who came in next?** Sapphira, his wife

V8 – **What was her response?** Yes, that was the price of the property

V9 – **Whom had she sinned against?** The Holy Spirit (compare with v 4 – her husband had sinned against God)

-**Conclusion?** The Holy Spirit is a part of the Godhead (our "Jesus only" Pentecostal friends should study this)

V10 – **Who carried her body out?** The same young men who had carried out the body of her husband

V11 – **What was the result for the church?** Fear (reverence) of the whole church for the power of God

-Thought question: **How many people would drop dead today because of the sin of lying?**

-Another great lesson: It is not how much we give, but the attitude that we have about what we give (is it with a cheerful heart?)

Acts 5.12-16

V12 – **Why did they meet on Solomon's porch?** But the church was too large to meet in a building

V 13 – "The rest"? The Pharisees, Sadducees, etc.
-Why? The apostles could read minds, do miracles, etc.

V 14 – Notice that the women were included (a characteristic of the writings of Luke – always respectful to the women and children and the poor)

V 15 – The Holy Spirit was acting through Peter

V 16 – Unclean spirits:
-*Colossians 2.15* – disarmed rulers and authorities
-*Ephesians 6.12* – world forces of this darkness
-*Romans 8.38-39* – "What shall separate us...?"
-Message? We are in a spiritual warfare with the forces of Satan

Acts 5.17-26

V 17 – Who was the high priest? Ananias
-What was the motive of the Sadducees? Jealousy (They thought that they were the experts!)

V 18 – A public jail
-Why? People had to know they were safe

V 19 – Who opened the gates? An angel of the Lord

V 20 – What is the "whole message of this Life"? The gospel for all mankind
-Why is "Life" capitalized? It is a reference to Christ
-See *John 1.4, John 14.1-6*
-Were they free to go their own way? No, they had to preach the gospel of Christ

V 21 – Preaching at what time? Daybreak (the time of day or night didn't matter to the apostles)
-What did the leaders of the Sanhedrin do? Convened a meeting of the Sanhedrin
-What orders did they deliver? To have the prisoners brought into their meeting for examination

V 22-23 – What was the proof that a miracle had taken place? The gates to the prison were still securely locked, and the guards were standing at the door
-What did they find when they opened up the prison to look for the apostles? No one was in there

V 24 – What was the reaction of the guards and officers? They were deeply confused
-Notice that they still did not convert to the gospel, in spite of overwhelming evidence that a great miracle had taken place

V 25 – What report was delivered to the Sanhedrin? That the apostles were standing in the temple preaching about Jesus Christ

V 26 – Why were the officers "gentle" with the apostles? Because they thought that there might be violence to rescue Peter and John and the other apostles

Acts 5.27-32

V 27 – Why did they stand them before the Sanhedrin? To make it more intimidating to the apostles

V 28 – Notice the words: ...*his blood on us*
-Read Matt. 27.20-26 – the fulfillment of that passage

V 29 – What was the response of the apostles to that statement? We must continue to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ

V 30 – What was the message of Peter here? That the Jewish leaders who put to death the Son of God by hanging him on the cross (no backing down on their part)

V 31 – Why had the Jews not recognized Jesus? Because of their pride – they did not want a "Prince" over them – they wanted all authority for themselves

V 32 – What line of logic did Peter follow? We were witnesses of all these things

Acts 5.33-42

V 33 – Had Peter convinced them with his perfect logic? Not at all – they were furious
-What had the Sanhedrin done in the first arrest? Threatened them
-This time? They wanted to kill them

V 34 – What do we know about Gamaliel? A teacher of Paul (*Acts 22.3*); highly respected
-Why were the apostles put outside? Because of the shame of the Sadducees

V 35 – The warning of Gamaliel? We must be careful in dealing with these men

V 36-39 – The reasoning of Gamaliel? If this movement was of God, then they would be fighting God
-And if it was not of God, then it would die out by itself

V 40 – Why did they have the apostles flogged? To save face!

V 41 – The attitude of the apostles? Happy to suffer for the name of Christ

V 42 – What effect did the threat of the Sanhedrin have on the apostles? None at all
-This chapter should encourage us all to be more courageous in preaching the gospel

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