

I. THE LIE OF ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

- A. Remember the generosity of Barnabas ACTS 4:34-37
1. Laying it down at the feet of the Apostles means taking their hands off
 - a. We have three funds – General, Missions, and Building
 - b. You can designate, but we do what we vote upon as a body
 - i. We voted on buying a church van
 - ii. We voted on renovating the auditorium
 - iii. We voted on renovating the fellowship hall
 - c. On the other hand, we DIDN'T vote on a new well pump
 2. Barnabas didn't want a new fellowship hall built with his name on it
 - a. He gave his money UNSTINTINGLY
 - b. WEBSTERS 1828 – “Restrained to a certain limit or quantity.”
 - c. We should be UNSTINTING in giving our lives to Christ
 - i. Not grudgingly, not “this much but no more”
 - ii. 2 COR. 9:7 – “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”
 - iii. Hilaros – “cheerful, joyous, prompt to do anything”
 3. Barnabas was moved of the spirit to give
 - a. He wanted ONLY to see God's work move forward
 - b. Some of the money purchased food, some of the money purchased clothing, some of the money purchased bible materials
 - c. This is the fungibility of money – the money goes to the PURPOSE
 - i. This is also the lie of Planned Parenthood
 - ii. It is a lie that no tax dollars fund abortions
 - iii. ANY money supports the purpose of an organization
- B. It is important to note: This is not a message on tithing
1. A tithe is a tenth of one's gross income – not net (after taxes)
 - a. That money is God's and not ours
 - b. Therefore, I try to say “return our tithes and give our offering”
 - c. You ask, why does God do that? Why not just do it Himself?
 - i. Have you ever given a small child a quarter for offering?
 - ii. Did the child earn that money?
 - iii. Would it be wrong for the child to keep it?
 - d. We just THINK we're different because we're adults!
 - e. The truth is: God DOES do it Himself! He gives us strength!
 2. MAL. 3:10 – “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of

- hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”
3. The saints mentioned in Acts 4 and particularly Barnabas were giving
 - a. Not a tithe, but an offering
 - b. Much like we gave to Tri-City after the Hurricane
 - c. Bro. Kelterhouse called to ask how their church could give
 - C. Ananias and Sapphira was DELIBERATELY SINNED (they agreed together – vs. 2)
 1. Their sin was deliberate. Their sin was DECIETFUL (vs. 3-4)
 - a. While it was wrong to lie to the other saints...
 - b. They “lied” to the Holy Ghost – therefore God
 - c. Why not Jesus? Why not the Father?
 - d. Because they were likely Saved, and the Holy Ghost indwelt them
 - e. They did it with the Holy Ghost right there with them
 2. Their sin was an act of COVETOUSNESS (conceived in thine heart)
 - a. They wanted the money and the honor (men’s praise)
 - b. Achan also wanted money and honor
 - i. We focus on the money part because he stole
 - ii. But he ALSO wanted everyone to think him faithful to God
 - iii. This is COVETOUS – seeking something not your own
 - iv. WEBSTERS – “Inordinately desirous; excessively eager to obtain and possess; directed to money or goods, avaricious.”
 - c. LUKE 12:15 – “And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”
 3. We will see the Lie of Ananias and Sapphira.
 - a. Let us see their lives, what they lost, and examine their legacy
 - b. Then we will gain a lesson from Ananias and Sapphira

II. THE LIVES OF ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

- A. They had it MADE spiritually speaking
 1. Living as a member of the first Baptist Church of Jerusalem
 - a. Peter was their pastor, the other apostles on staff
 - b. Jesus Christ had only recently ascended back into Heaven
 - c. People were getting Saved by the THOUSANDS
 - d. The Saved were being Baptized as Church members
 2. The church was taking care of widows and the fatherless
 - a. JAMES 1:27 – “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”
 - b. Visit means CARE... not just send money
 - c. That’s one thing wrong with giving money to a beggar

3. They were a part of a revived church on fire for God
- B. They had it MADE financially speaking
 1. They apparently had a pretty good amount of wealth
 2. You cannot sell a piece of land if you need it for your livelihood
 3. This was EXTRA, meaning wealth, and abundance beyond their needs
- C. They had it MADE maritally speaking (sort of)
 1. Apparently, they both agreed on these matters
 2. She even kept up the lie when he wasn't around
- D. They had it MADE, but lost it all
 1. They allowed Satan to have a foothold to attack
 2. Satan had been attacking the church from WITHOUT
 3. Now, they gave him an opening to attack the church from WITHIN

III. THE LOSS OF ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

- A. They lost an opportunity to be blessed
 1. They could have taken the EXACT same sum and given it without the lie
 - a. No one had to know where the money came from
 - b. No reason to try to make yourself look like a martyr
 - c. "Hey, here's \$200,000! Praise God!"
 2. Or better yet anonymously!
 3. Better a part with blessing than a part with destruction!
- B. They lost their lives
 1. They lost all further opportunity to serve God on the Earth
 2. The Corinthians were also not careful with their lives
 - a. They took the Lord's Supper carelessly
 - b. 1 COR. 11:30 – "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep."
 3. It happened to them, it could happen to us!
- C. They lost their possessions
 1. All of that they were trying to hold on to, to keep for themselves
 2. All of their efforts to hang onto world things
 3. They no longer had them – you can't take it with you!
 4. JOB 1:21 – "And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."
- D. They lost their reward
 1. 1 COR. 3:15 – "If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."
 2. 1 JOHN 5:17 – "All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death."
 3. REV. 22:12 – "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

IV. THE LEGACY OF ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

- A. Great fear came upon all the church (vs. 11)
 - 1. That is honor and reverence for God
 - 2. He is WORTHY of all honor and reverence and praise and worship
 - 3. Everyone took stock and EXAMINED themselves
- B. People realized that it was DANGEROUS to join a church and NOT walk with God
 - 1. No one who wasn't willing to walk straight dared join (vs. 13)
 - 2. But SOME were willing (vs. 14)
- C. All of the people that HEARD realized that God had acted
 - 1. And people responded to that (vs. 14)
 - 2. More people got saved without the cancer than would have WITH
 - 3. God pruned some problem branches, and the tree produced more fruit!
- D. God's Great Power was manifest throughout the city
 - 1. They brought people into the streets to be healed (vs. 15)
 - 2. Many signs and wonders were performed
 - 3. It even spread to the cities round about Jerusalem

V. THE LESSON FROM ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

- A. Jesus is the Great Physician
 - 1. He is also a surgeon that operates on His body
 - a. Just like a human surgeon operates on cancer
 - b. To remove it from the body before it spreads
 - c. To remove it from the body before it kills
 - 2. The life of Ananias was taken in vs. 5
 - 3. The life of Sapphira was taken in vs. 10
 - 4. Both lost their lives by CHOICE (they didn't have to lie!)
- B. It only seems harsh perhaps because we are used to lying
 - 1. The 10 commandments list denying God
 - 2. Adultery, Murder right beside THEFT and LYING
 - 3. What makes a lie less of a sin than murder?
 - 4. Both are disobedience to God
- C. Church membership is a great privilege and a great obligation
 - 1. We join a church by scriptural baptism after salvation
 - a. When in a new area, we present ourselves for membership
 - b. There are benefits to being a church member
 - c. It is a place of protection for yourself and your family
 - d. It puts one in place where service can be blessed by God
 - 2. But it does require a decision
 - a. Membership doesn't happen by osmosis, but takes an act
 - b. If you have never joined this church, will you pray about it?
- D. If you have never been Saved, then that is YOUR greatest need