

**ACTS 5:1-6:7**

## THE EARLY CHURCH (ACTS 4)

A few thousand believed and added since the start of Acts 4

All believers were in one heart and mind

- Believers shared everything they had
- There were no needy persons among them
- Apostles continued to testify boldly the resurrection of Jesus

## WHERE ARE WE TODAY? (ACTS 5:1-6:7)

Gospel advances, church grows and expect opposition to increase

- a two-faced couple influenced by satan
- Apostles arrested and thrown into jail by jealous religious leaders
- Apostles flogged

# OUR FOCUS TODAY

- What have they done wrong?
- Is God too harsh with them?
- What possibly is God trying to achieve?
- What does it mean for us?

# WHAT HAVE ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA DONE WRONG?

**Giving in to the influence of satan**

- Hypocrisy
- Faking generosity
- Lusting after the praise of men
- Greed.
- Lied to the church
- Dishonesty before God

# WHY DID GOD JUDGE ANANIAS & SAPPHIRA SO HARSHLY

How they want others  
to see them

Generous

Love the church

Influence by faith

Submission to church

How God exposes  
them

Deceitful

Lust after  
recognition  
(prideful)

Influence by satan

Testing the Spirit

*Here are some possibilities*

# WHY DID GOD JUDGE ANANIAS & SAPPHIRA SO HARSHLY

- They acted as **agents** of satan influencing the church (v5:3)
- Lack of holy **fear** of God in their sin (v5:9)
- Their perverse behaviour would **threaten** the **integrity** of the church & gospel in future
- And therefore God has to deal with satan's **threat** to destroy the church with his influence

# IMPLICATIONS

Knowing God is just, holy and righteous

- to judge sin and punish wrong-doing
- to counter the threat of Satan
- to protect His church and the
- advancement of the gospel

# APPLICATIONS

## DO NOT

- presume there is always time to repent
- assume we can sin and get away
- exaggerate our spiritual accomplishment

## DO

- examine our hearts against satan
- have a holy fear of God

# FEAR OF THE LORD *correlates.....*

- **Serious commitment to God**  
(Acts 5:5, 5:11)  
>> Great fear seize the whole church  
(Acts 5:13)  
>> No one else dared join them
- **Bold for the gospel**  
(Acts 5:29)  
>> Obey God rather than human beings
- **Peace & growth to the church**  
(Acts 9:31)