

***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	How God exposes them
Generous	Deceitful
Love the church	Lust after recognition (prideful)
Influence by faith	Influence by satan
Submission to church	Testing the Spirit

**WHY DID  
GOD JUDGE  
ANANIAS &  
SAPPHIRA  
SO  
HARSHLY**

*Here are some possibilities*

- 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)