

Arrogant v Humble

Acts 5

Introduction: This story and the story of Achan, in Joshua 7, should remind us that God is never deceived by the human heart and its acquiescence to Satan's desires. The story of Joshua reveals the importance of influences.

Listening to Satan's Advice - Acts 5:1-11 - Matthew 10:26; Luke 12:2

Precept: The presence of the Holy Spirit reminds us that God is always at work in His Church. In Acts 4 the Holy Spirit emboldened Peter and John as they told the truth. In this story the truth protects believers.

Summary: The swift punishment of Ananias and Sapphira left this young body of believers stunned. So, were these two people true believers?

Transition: Acts 5:12-16 - Here we learn two things: First, the apostles consistently taught people about Jesus. Second, the apostles use their power to heal any and all who came.

Precept: Miracles attract a crowd but truth alone keeps them. Pursue truth at all cost!

Listening to the Holy Spirit - Acts 5:17-42

First, (Acts 5:12b-14) - It was a pure Church (2 Timothy 2:19-21; Matthew 18:15-20)

Precept: Personal and corporate holiness is vital and foundational to evangelism and Church growth.

Second, (Acts 5:12-28) - A pure Church will encounter and can provoke hostility and persecution (2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 2:20; 3:17; 4:14).

Precept: Is suffering for Christ a badge of disgrace or a reason to be honored? They were happy to be the servants, the slaves of Jesus Christ.

Third, (Acts 5:29-32) - These apostles fully intended to obey God, their absolute authority.

Precept: This truth is the essence of "Jesus is Lord". True salvation begins as belief and naturally continues as obedience.

The story ends in Acts 5:41-42 and later Peter wrote, 1 Peter 4:13.

Conclusion: The story of Ananias and Sapphira is a story about the first incident of Church discipline. (1 Peter 4:17)

Acts 5: Discerning (1-11); Healing (12-16) Trusting (17-42). Discerning the will of God; healing and bringing blessing to those in need and trusting God in the challenges that face us in life are all common issues no matter what century or what place you live in as a believer.

The disciples were not afraid of the consequences, they were concerned with obeying God. Three things: Trusting God results in graciously standing up to wrong (Acts 5:27-32). Second, trusting God can result in a collision of anger and reason (Acts 5:33-39); third, trusting God produces a grateful heart and nurtures continued obedience (Acts 5:41-42).

After Peter and John's first encounter with the Sanhedrin they left emboldened to preach Christ; after their second they were beaten and returned blessed to suffer for Jesus Christ, their Lord.