



Acts: God in Action through Us

Acts 5:1-16 Introduction

Discussion starter:

What does it mean for you to fear God?

Read Acts 5:1-16

Chapter 4 ends with the example of generous living of Barnabas who 'sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.' Chapter 5 begins with the quite shocking incident of a couple who have sold their field also.

1. What have Ananias and Sapphira done that is not consistent with Christian community (5:1-2)? What do you think is the significance of attributing the sin as 'lying to the Holy Spirit'?
2. Luke clearly intends us to see the death of Ananias and Sapphira as a work of divine judgment. How do you respond to the severity of God's judgment?
3. Verse 11 states that 'great fear seized the whole church'. How do you think the church was affected by this fear?

Ananias and Sapphira's hypocrisy threatened the unity of the church. God's judgment fell on them and it was not allowed to spread.

4. What value does God place on truth and unity in the body of Christ?
5. In what way do we lie to each other today in our Christian communities (church, home group, friendships)?
6. What difference would it make to our witness to our suburb if we as believers were 'highly regarded by the people'?