

Series: Acts

Sermon: Acts 4:32-5:11

**Passage: 4:32-5:11**

Illustration:

Need: Sin in the church is serious, it is never secret, and God will not ignore it.

**I. Power, Progress, & Partnership. (4:32-37)**

- Facing persecution, the early church humbly submitted to God & He blessed them with grace & power.
- The apostle's witness to the resurrection continued to progress.
- Everyone was committed to mission and meeting the needs of one another.
- Their "selling houses & land" would be like our liquidating investments & retirement accounts, cashing out savings accounts & selling vacation homes.
- Barnabas was one example of Radical Partnership & Generosity.

**II. Hypocrisy, Holiness, & Holes in the ground. (5:1-11)**

- While the enemy's first attack came from without, his next attempt would come from within.
- "But" - Luke contrasts godly Barnabas with the sin of Ananias & his wife Sapphira.
- Their sin of deception & hypocrisy was calculated & premeditated.
- Peter reveals that their lie was not to man but to God. (*vs. 3-4 refer to the Holy Spirit as God*)
- Both Ananias & Sapphira suffer divine judgment as a result of their deception.
- Every Christian who reads this knows fully how guilty they are of this or worse.
- Similar OT parallels: Nadab & Abihu (Lev. 10 - burned up for offering "strange fire"), Lot's wife (Gen. 19 - turned into a pillar of salt for looking back at Sodom), Korah (Num. 16 - swallowed by the earth for challenging Moses), Uzzah (2 Sam. 6 - died instantly for attempting to keep the ark of the covenant from falling), Achan (Josh. 7 - killed for taking spoils from Jericho that were reserved for God).
- Sin in the body is serious, it is never secret, and God will not ignore it.

**III. Making the hard passage personal...**

- How does God want to stretch you in the area of partnership & generosity?
- Is your life currently marked by partnership or a pretending?
- What secret sin is God bringing to your mind that needs to be dealt with today?