



#12 Holy Fear

Acts 5:1-13

"Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

2 Timothy 2:19

For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God...

1 Peter 4:17

TWO COMMON
EFFECTS OF
BELIEVING THE
GOSPEL

Acts 4:32 Now

the full number of those who believed were of **one heart and soul**, and **no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own**, but they had everything in common.

Effect #1: Tightening of our heart's attachment to **PEOPLE**

Effect #2: Loosening of our heart's attachment to **THINGS**

TWO CONTRASTING EXAMPLES

A. The generosity of **BARNABAS** 4:36-37

B. The greed of **ANANIAS** and Sapphira 5:1-10

THE FIRST INSTANCE OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE

1. **SINFUL DECEPTION** by ANANIAS 5:1-2

Acts 5:1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, ²and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.

2. **SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT** from PETER 5:3-4

Acts 5:3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? ⁴While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God."

3. **SWIFT DISCIPLINE** from GOD HIMSELF 5:5-6

Acts 5:5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. ⁶The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

4. **SPOUSAL DUPLICITY** by SAPPHIRA... SAME DISCIPLINE 5:7-10

Acts 5:7 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." ⁹But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." ¹⁰Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

5. **SANCTIFIED DREAD** in EVERYBODY 5:11

Acts 5:11 And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

6. **SUPERNATURAL DEEDS** by the APOSTLES 5:12-13

Acts 5:12 Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. ¹³None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem.

CLOSED CIRCUIT FOR NEW LIFE CHURCH

- ❖ Cultivating a holy **FEAR** of God is a healthy thing.
- ❖ The **POWER** of the church is connected to **PURITY** in the church.
- ❖ Confronting **HYPOCRISY** in others is admittedly risky and uncomfortable, but those who care deeply for the health and witness of the whole church will do it.
- ❖ Getting the **GOSPEL** "down deep in your bones" matters for you, for others, and for your church!
- ❖ If we would **JUDGE** ourselves, we would not be judged – I Corinthians 11:31

