

1 **The Book of Acts**

Week 5 - Thoughts from Chapter 5

2 **Your Thoughts?**

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What did you hear? What spoke to your heart? What did God speak to you?

What will be your response?

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3 **Acts 5:1-11**

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, [2] and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. [3] But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? [4] "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

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[5] And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it. [6] The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him. [7] Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. [8] And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?" And she said, "Yes, that was the price."

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[9] Then Peter said to her, "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as well." [10] And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

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And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things. [12] At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico.

7 **Interpreting a "difficult event"**

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1. Remember "God" (Isaiah 55:8-9)
2. Can God be trusted to do right?
3. An act of discipline or salvation?

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8 **An Interpretative Lens (I Kings 14:6-13)**

"Now you, arise, go to your house. When your feet enter the city the child will die. [13]

"All Israel shall mourn for him and bury him, for he alone of Jeroboam's family will come to the grave, because in him something good was found toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.

Is it possible that sometimes God takes a life to save them from what they will become?

9 **To God physical death is not the end!**

"But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God: [32] 'I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living." - (Matthew 22:31-32)

10 **Putting it all together...**

1. If this story seems uncomfortable to you, it mostly because we have lost touch with the Holiness of God and the awfulness of sin. We don't know the true God! (C.S. Lewis)

11 **The Problem of Pain**

"We want, in fact, not so much a Father in Heaven as a grandfather in heaven, a senile benevolence who, as they say, 'liked to see young people enjoying themselves', and whose plan for the universe was simply that it might be truly said at the end of the day, 'a good time was had by all'... But since it is abundantly clear that I don't, and since I have reason to believe, nevertheless, that God is Love, I conclude that my conception of love needs correction."

12 **To Summarize**

1. If this story seems uncomfortable to you, it mostly because we have lost touch with the Holiness of God and the awfulness of sin. We don't know the true God! (C.S. Lewis)

2. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7)
3. Be careful what we ask for; with true revival comes true responsibility!