

# Acts 5: 1-16

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1. What did Ananias and Sapphira sell and how did Ananias and Sapphira's transaction compare with Barnabas's? (5:1-2)

## **Acts 5: 1-2**

**1** 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.**

1. Sold a piece of property.
2. 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.

# Ananias and Sapphira

Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, were professing believers, members of the early church.

They professed Christ by:

- a. Denying self and all they were and had;
- b. Taking up the cross daily;
- c. Following Christ.

They were professing to follow Christ, to take Him at His Word. They sold their property in order to help those who needed food, shelter, clothing, and the gospel.

But their profession was a false profession. It was hypocritical, deceptive and a lie. They tried to *fake* their commitment. They tried to deceive the church.

# **Ananias and Sapphira**

- 1. Keeping back is a partial commitment.**
- 2. Keeping back is deception. It is deceiving the church.**
- 3. Keeping back is allowing Satan to fill the heart instead of the Holy Spirit.**
- 4. Keeping back is lying to the Holy Spirit.**

# Ananias and Sapphira

## 1. Keeping back is a partial commitment.

**Ananias and Sapphira refused to give everything beyond their own necessities. They kept back part of the money.**

**1 Tim. 6: 10**

**10** For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

# Ananias and Sapphira

## 2. Keeping back is deception. It is deceiving the church.

Ananias and Sapphira wanted the church to think they were *fellow believers*. They wanted the privilege, the honor, the acceptance and the fellowship of believers without paying the price of commitment and loyalty to Christ and His church.

### Phil. 3: 18-19

**18** For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* enemies of the cross of Christ,

**19** whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

## 3. Keeping back is allowing Satan to fill the heart instead of the Holy Spirit.

a. Keeping back is of Satan. It is allowing one's heart to be filled with Satan's lies.

b. The Holy Spirit stirs love. It is a love that cares and ministers.

### Rom. 5: 5

**5** and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.



# Ananias and Sapphira

## 4. Keeping back is lying to the Holy Spirit.

Ananias and Sapphira did the following:

- a. They said that they surrendered all the proceeds of the sale of their property to Christ, but they did not give all.
- b. They wanted the Spirit's presence and power when they were really unwilling to surrender all.
- c. They said that they were committed to walk as Christians with other believers but they were not willing to pay the full price of discipleship.
- d. They wanted the fullness of God's Spirit when the acceptance and approval of men was more important.

2. How did Peter recognize Ananias's lie? Who did Ananias lie to? (5:3-4)

## Acts 5: 3-4

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.”**

1. The Holy Spirit guided Peter.

2. Ananias did not lie to men. He lied to God.

# Ananias and Sapphira

The deceit of Ananias did not fool Peter. Guided by the Holy Spirit, he saw through their hypocrisy.

Ananias, no doubt expecting the accolades of the people for his gift, must have been stunned by Peter's words.

**“Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back *some* of the price of the land?”**

**“While the land *remained unsold*,” Peter reminds him, “*did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control?*”** Ananias was under no compulsion to sell his property or to donate the entire amount of the sale.

Peter's next question was a stern rebuke to Ananias: **“Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart?”**

Ananias was tempted by Satan. The responsibility for the sin rested on Ananias. He had the freedom to do what he wanted to with his property. Ananias chose to be deceitful. His sin originated in his own selfish hypocrisy.

3. After listening to Peter's words, what happened to Ananias? (5:5)

## **Acts 5: 5**

**5** And as he heard these words, **Ananias fell down and breathed his last**; and great fear came over all who heard of it.

“Ananias fell down and breathed his last.”

#### **4. What was done with Ananias's body? (5:6)**

##### **Acts 5: 6**

**6 The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.**

1. The young men covered him.
2. The young men carried him out.
3. The young men buried him.

**Keeping back is severely judged. Peter said nothing, absolutely nothing about death. He did not even say anything about judgment. He merely pointed out the sin of Ananias. The judgment was of God and God alone.**

5. How did Peter test Sapphira? What was Sapphira's response to Peter? (5:7-8)

## **Acts 5: 7-8**

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."

1. Peter asked Sapphira if they sold their property for a certain amount.

2. She replied " Yes, that was the price."

6. What devastating announcement did Peter make to Sapphira? (5:9)

## Acts 5: 9

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.”

1. “Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test?”

2. The feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out *as well*.”

7. How did Sapphira's end compare with that of her husband? (5:10)

## **Acts 5: 10**

**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.

1. She fell at his feet and breathed her last.
2. The young men came in and found her dead.
3. They carried her out and buried her beside her husband.



# Ananias and Sapphira

Ananias and Sapphira conspired together to lie about the proceeds.

1. He had the opportunity encourage his wife to be righteous, that is, in helping to meet the needs of so many who were in need. He had the opportunity to inspire his wife to a complete and fulfilled life in Christ, a life perfectly assured of eternal life.
2. Instead he led her to sin and death.

## **Matt. 18: 6**

**6** but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

8. How did the early church react to these events? (5:11)

## **Acts 5: 11**

**11 And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.**

**Great fear came over the whole church.**

1. Judgment caused great fear both in the church and in the world among those who heard about it.
2. Everyone recognized the great cost and seriousness of following Christ.

# Following Jesus means:

1. **Dedicating your life to Jesus and completely denying yourself.**

## **Luke 9: 23**

**23** And He was saying to *them* all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

# **Following Jesus means:**

- 1a. Walking the straight and narrow path.**
- 1b. Living righteously and godly in this present world.**
- 1c. Looking for the glorious return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

## **Titus 2: 11-14**

**11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,  
12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,  
13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,  
14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.**

# Deception is Sinful

1. The sin of holding back is serious.
  - a. When a person comes to Jesus Christ, God expects the person to be sincere and genuine through and through. He expects the person to deny himself—to give all he is and has to God and serve others. There is no acceptance of anyone who does any less—only judgment.
2. The sin of keeping back involves many other sins.
3. The heart of a person is not truly known except by God.

9. What kind of work did the apostles do among the people? Where did the believers meet? (5:12)

## Acts 5: 12

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.

1. Many signs and wonders

2. Solomon's portico

# The attitude of the early Christians

**They were all with one accord.**

1. They showed their love for each other.
2. They shared life together.
3. They cared for people together.
4. They lived in unity.
5. They glorified God.

10. Even though the Christians were highly thought of, why were some people afraid to join them? (5:13)

## Acts 5: 13

13 But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem.

1. None of the rest dared to associate with them.

2. They saw God's judgment on Ananias and Sapphira because they lied to God. 24



11. Why did some people carry the sick out into the streets and lay them on cots and pallets? (5:14-15)

## Acts 5: 14-15

**14** And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to *their number*,

**15** to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when **Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them.**

“So that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them” in order that they may be healed.

## **Acts 19: 11-12**

**11** God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul,  
**12** so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.

12. Besides the sick, who else was brought to the apostles for healing? What happened to all those who came to be made well? (5:16)

## **Acts 5: 16**

**16** Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.

1. Those afflicted with unclean spirits were healed.
2. They received physical and spiritual freedom.