

ACTS 5:1-11

A. The first sin since Acts 2 filling -

Acts 5:1-11 - But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, Acts 5:2 And kept back *part* of the price, his wife also being privy *to it*, and brought a certain part, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet. Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land? Acts 5:4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. Acts 5:5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. Acts 5:6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried *him* out, and buried *him*. Acts 5:7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. Acts 5:8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Acts 5:9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband *are* at the door, and shall carry thee out. Acts 5:10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying *her* forth, buried *her* by her husband. Acts 5:11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

1. This event shows the seriousness of **sin** and the absolute nature of judgment that will be in the kingdom. In the kingdom, there will be spontaneous living for one another. But there will also be a **sudden** execution of God's judgment on the sinner.

Revelation 19:15 - And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

*It will be a **forced** reign of righteousness.

Jeremiah 23:5 - Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

2. In Acts 5:5, when God's justice was given, the people had "great **fear**". Imagine if you witnessed something like this in a church service today - happening to someone you knew!
 - a. Ananias and Sapphira were spiritually **pretending**. They saw an opportunity to receive privilege and applause of the people. They sold **a** possession, but kept **some** of the money back and **lied** about the amount they had made. God gave Peter a word of knowledge, revealing that both Ananias and Sapphira were guilty of covetousness, idolatry, and lying to God and His apostles.
 - b. I do not believe they were true believers, because in Acts 4:31 it says the believers were all filled with the Holy Ghost. Whereas, here in Acts 5:3, they are filled with Satan.
 - c. Their lying was to the Holy Ghost in verse 3, and it was called lying to **God** in verse 4. This is showing the **deity** of the Holy Spirit.

B. Understanding truly what happened here and why-

1. Luke 18:18-22 - And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? Luke 18:19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none *is* good, save one, *that is*, God. Luke 18:20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. Luke 18:21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. Luke 18:22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

26. a. *Notice how law keeping was related to soul-**sal**vation in Israel's program as in James 2:17-

- b. Luke 18:24-25 - And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! Luke 18:25 For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

*Why did Jesus speak so negatively about wealth and instruct them to **sell** their possessions? Here He commands the wealthy ruler to sell **all** his possessions and give the profit to the poor.

- c. Luke 12:13-15 - And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. Luke 12:14 And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you? Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

- (1) *Christ gives a parable following and the ending says:

Luke 12:18-21 - And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. Luke 12:19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, *and* be merry. Luke 12:20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? Luke 12:21 So *is* he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

- (2) *Jesus then proceeds to tell His disciples not to worry about food or drink that they would **need**.

Luke 12:30-34 - For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. Luke 12:31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Luke 12:33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. Luke 12:34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

2. Jesus, in the Four Gospels, told the Jews that selling all their possessions and giving to the poor was a sign of their heart, their hope of their treasures in heaven (**re**served). Those who ignored this command were signifying their **un**belief, and were showing that they were idolaters - money worshippers, not of the Father nor the Son.
3. When Jesus spoke of giving up material riches and it being **im**possible for rich people to enter the kingdom of God (1000 year reign), He had Israel's **pro**phetic program in mind.

Note: Proverbs 11:4 - Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.

Zephaniah 1:18 - Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

- a. Once Israel's Messiah - Jesus arrived, her program was in the "**last** days" (Heb. 1:2; Acts 2:16-21; Joel 2:28-32; Luke 16:16; Matt. 3:7-12). After the pouring out of the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost, soon the day of the Lord's wrath - the **7** year Tribulation was to begin. Then the Anti-Christ, the **false** Messiah, would fool Israel into a false peace treaty. He soon would show his evil colors by implementing a tyrannical **economic** agenda.

Revelation 13:16-17 - And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: Rev. 13:17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

- b. Jesus knew that material riches would spiritually **hinder** and destroy His forming of the Little Flock and the Little Flock themselves. He knew they would be tempted to take the Antichrist's mark and accept his name or number in order to **retain** their physical possessions.

(1) *Christ had **warned** Israel's believers not to be attached to material goods during the Tribulation period (Matt. 24:15-18; Mark 13:14-16). Jesus wanted them to be **able** to resist this temptation, for He knew those rich would value their possessions, and thus **submit** to the AntiChrist!

(2) *Notice that once one would **receive** Antichrist's mark, they temporarily could keep their possessions. But in the end, they would **lose** their soul!

Revelation 14:9-11 - And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand, Rev. 14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: Rev. 14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

4. Apostle Peter, representing the true Little Flock - who had left **all** to follow Jesus, asks: *Context*

Luke 18:25-30 - For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. Luke 18:26 And they that heard *it* said, Who then can be saved? Luke 18:27 And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God. Luke 18:28 Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee. Luke 18:29 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Luke 18:30 Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.

C.

Now that we know the context-setting leading to Acts 5:1-11:

1. Ananias and Sapphira were materially-money controlled and despised God's truth of selling possessions and giving **their** money to others. They **broke** one of the requirements necessary to enter the Kingdom of God (Luke 18:18-30; Matt. 19:16-30).

2. Ananias and Sapphira had fallen into the trap of **idolatry** and materialism (Luke 12:21), "not rich toward God". They were more interested in accumulating for themselves than obeying and pleasing God.

3. What had Jesus said to the young **rich** ruler?

Luke 18:22 - Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

*Ananias and Sapphira **refused** to believe that was true. Their **heart** was on earth and not in heaven.

Luke 12:33-34 - Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. Luke 12:34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

4. Their **most** serious error was in verses 3-4 [Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, ... thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God].
- a. *Peter asked: Verse 9 [How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord?]. They not only lied, but they purposed to **cheat** God and see how He would respond. God did respond by killing them - **executing** judgment immediately upon them.
- b. In God's sight, this was a serious matter. Had the Antichrist shown up in early Acts, and had our dispensation not postponed Israel's program, Ananias and Sapphira would have most **likely** followed the Antichrist.
5. Amazingly, God knows all things **before**hand and prepares for when man **rejects** His purpose at that moment.

After Israel's **final rejection of Christ through the Holy Spirit's ministry (Acts 2-7), Acts 11:28 tells of a great famine hitting. With the kingdom offer sidelined-set aside **temporarily**, there was lost interest concerning the general account. Less giving caused the kingdom Jews to grow poorer. But God had just instituted the Dispensation of Grace and by Paul, through the **Body** Gentile converts, collections were **repeatedly** taken up and sent to help financially relieve the poor Jerusalem saints (Acts 11:28-30; Rom. 15:25-28; I Cor. 16:1-3; Gal. 2:10).

In Paul's epistles, he **never** instructs us to sell our possessions and to share our bank account.

We are expected to work to eat and to take care of our own family (II Thess. 3:6-15;

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Today:

 Eph. 4:28; I Tim. 5:8). Paul does **warn** us about loving and worshipping money and material things (I Tim. 6:3-19). God does not say it is a sin to be rich, but we are to never put it ahead of our **love** for Christ and His church.

And it is good to remember that **all believers, even the **poor**, are always spiritually rich. One day we will be literally **rewarded** (Rom. 8:32; I Cor. 1:30, 3:14; II Cor. 8:9; Eph. 1:3; Phil. 4:19).