

Jesus Christ's work through the Apostles in Jerusalem

Lesson 4 You Can't Fool God

".... and ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judae'a, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8

Introduction: At the close of Acts chapter four we see much growth in the local New Testament Church. The church at Jerusalem has seen an increase from 150 to 3000 then an additional 5000. There was mild resistance to the gospel and an increase in the spread of God's word. In this chapter we will see the first set of issues that hamper the continual growth and blessing of the early church. At the end of this chapter we will see God's divine providence and the continuation of His plan for the gospel message to continue around the world.

I. A Deception Agreed Upon

- a. **(V1) They Sold a possession**
 - i. What was their motivation?
 1. Are we motivated by God or Man?
 2. Why do we do what we do?
 3. Is what we do biblical or traditional?
- b. **(V2) They pretended to be what they were not**
 - i. Desired position
 1. Eyes of men versus God? **Gal 1:10-11**
 2. **Mark 9:35, Mark 10:44**
 - ii. No true sacrifice
 1. **Luke 21:1-4**
 - iii. We are all in different places in our walk with God
 1. **1 John 2:12-16**
 2. New Christians
 3. Young Christians
 4. Old Christians

II. A Divine Judgment

- a. **(V3) The issue**
 - i. The issue was not the money
 - ii. The issue was not the land
 - iii. Two key words in this verse
 1. Heart
 2. Lie
- b. **(V4-10) The instrument**
 - i. Ananias

1. God has given us “things” to steward
 - a. **Psalm 24:1, 1 Cor 10:26, Col 1:16**
 - b. “Was it not thine own?”
2. We have a choice with our increase
 - a. We are living under the law of liberty
 - i. **Lev 27:30-33, Gal 5:1-6**
3. This thing was grown in His heart
 - a. We see Satan as the perpetrator for initiating the thought
 - b. We see Ananias as the responsible party for letting it grow
 - i. Thoughts from God – Holy Spirit
 1. Understand the Sword of the Spirit
 - ii. Thoughts from Satan/Spiritual wickedness -
 - iii. Thoughts from us – **Prov 12:5, Prov 15:26, Prov 16:3**
 1. Example – Show picture of Ice Cream
 - iv. It is impossible to lie to God without him knowing
 - ii. (V5) The End result
 1. Imagine if someone fell dead every time they lied, Romans 6:23
 2. Notice the purpose – God’s will be done
 3. Do we marginalize sin?
 - iii. (V8-10) Sapphira
 1. Notice "Peter answered" Sapphira
 2. Peter's boldness and action can only be attributed to the Holy Spirit
 3. Sapphira had space to recant
- c. (V11) The interests of the church
 - i. Ananias and Sapphira's death was actually mercy on God's part and blessing on the church
 1. **Hebrews 12:5-6**
 2. **John 15:2**
 3. Chastening and affliction sometimes seem like a curse from our perspective
 - ii. What if Ananias and Sapphira had been allowed to continue their deception?

III. A Dramatic Restoration

* Second appearing of the word ekklesia (called out assembly)

- a. (V11) Fear came inwardly and outwardly
 - i. Fear of the church
 - ii. **Psalm 111:10**
 - iii. **Psalm 33:8, 13**
 - iv. **Proverbs 1:23-29**
 - v. Fear of the unsaved
- b. (V12,14) Signs produced an increase
 - i. These signs were for the establishment of the church
 - ii. **Mark 16:20**

- c. **(V14-16)**Reputation was known
 - i. "Durst no man joined them"
 - VS.
 - ii. "Believers were added to the Lord"

"People are drawn to authentic Christianity, not religion. Here we see multitudes coming from round about. If people knew we had the answer to the void in their life they would come."