

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE FOOLING? (Acts 5:1-11)

1 Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife, Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. **2** With his wife's full knowledge he kept back a part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostle's feet.

3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? **4** Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

5 When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. **6** Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

7 About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. **8** Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" "Yes," she said, "that is the price."

9 Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

10 At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. **11** Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

Two important things to understand:

1. Ananias and Sapphira were _____.

If Satan cannot _____ the church, he will try to _____ the church.

2. The story of Ananias and Sapphira is not about _____.

The story is about _____. It is about _____.

Important background to be aware of:

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field and brought the money and put it at the apostle's feet. Acts 4:36-37 (NIV)

The Problem:

The Lord does not look at the things a man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

These people make a big show of saying the right thing, but their heart isn't in it. They act like they're worshiping me, but they don't mean it. They just use me as a cover. Matthew 15:8-9 (MES)

The Standard:

"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God Almighty. The whole earth is filled with his glory." Isaiah 6:3 (NIV)

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, for it is written, "Be holy, because I am holy." 1 Peter 1:15-16 (NIV)

The Truth:

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account. Hebrews 4:13 (NIV)

It's a good day when you _____.

It's really hard to _____ when you are _____!