



The Strange Case of Ananias & Sapphira

Sermon by Ray Reynolds (10/23/11 AM)
GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Text: Acts 5:1-11

Introduction: We need to do the right thing every time we are given the opportunity. **James 4:17** says, "A *nyone who knows the right thing to do, but does not do it is sinning.*" The book of Acts tells us of a strange story where two people knew the right thing to do, but did something totally different. The context and the backdrop of the story are fascinating. Let's study about this strange event.

Discussion:

I. The Right Action

Acts 4:32-35 says, "*The group of believers were united in their hearts and spirit. All those in the group acted as though their private property belonged to everyone in the group. In fact, they shared everything. With great power the apostles were telling people that the Lord Jesus was truly raised from the dead. And God blessed all the believers very much. There were no needy people among them. From time to time those who owned fields or houses sold them, brought the money, and gave it to the apostles. Then the money was given to anyone who needed it.*"

II. The Right Heart

Acts 4:36-5:2 says, "*One of the believers was named Joseph, a Levite born in Cyprus. The apostles called him Barnabas (which means "one who encourages"). Joseph owned a field, sold it, brought the money, and gave it to the apostles. But a man named Ananias and his wife Sapphira sold some land. He kept back part of the money for himself; his wife knew about this and agreed to it. But he brought the rest of the money and gave it to the apostles.*"

III. The Right Responsibility

Acts 5:5-10 says, "*When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. Some young men came in, wrapped up his body, carried it out, and buried it. And everyone who heard about this was filled with fear. About three hours later his wife came in, but she did not know what had happened. Peter said to her, "Tell me, was the money you got for your field this much?" Sapphira answered, "Yes, that was the price." Peter said to her, "Why did you and your husband agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." At that moment Sapphira fell down by his feet and died. When the young men came in and saw that she was dead, they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.*"

IV. The Right Method

Acts 5:11 says, "*The whole church and all the others who heard about these things were filled with fear.*"

V. The Right Appearance

Acts 5:12-16 says, "*The apostles did many signs and miracles among the people. And they would all meet together on Solomon's Porch. None of the others dared to join them, but all the people respected them. More and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to the group of believers. The people placed their sick on beds and mats in the streets, hoping that when Peter passed by at least his shadow might fall on them. Crowds came from all the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those who were bothered by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.*"

Conclusion: There is much to be learned from the strange case of Ananias and Sapphira. It is an amazing story and not one we can quickly forget. Are you ready to do the right thing? Are you ready to avoid sin? Will you stay on the right track?

WORD OF THE DAY = "Right"