

Sermon Handout

Honesty Before the Lord

Acts 5:1-11

I. A Point of Historical Connection – Parallel with Joshua 7

- a. Joshua & the Pentateuch compared with Acts & the Gospels
 - i. Joshua replaced Moses; HS in Apostles replaces Jesus
 - ii. Joshua leads Israel into the land; Apostles lead church into the world
- b. Achan compared with Ananias & Sapphira
 - i. Achan purloins that which is consecrated to the Lord *cf.* 6:18-19, 24
 - ii. A&S purloin that which is consecrated to the Lord 5:2
 - iii. Achan executed by the congregation at Joshua's command 7:25
 - iv. A&S executed directly by God (anticipated by Peter) 5:5, 10

II. The Events in Jerusalem

- a. The contrast between Barnabas & Ananias v. 1 *cf.* 4:36-37
- b. A&S “kept back” part of the sale price *cf.* Josh 7:1; Titus 2:10
- c. Peter knew what was done v. 3 *contra* Josh 7:6-13
HS power of the Apostles under Jesus' authority *see* Acts 1:8; Mt 28:18
- d. Peter addresses Ananias vv. 3-4
 - i. Ananias had sole authority over his possessions before & after the sale
 - ii. Motivated by Satan to lie to God the Holy Spirit in his gift
- e. Peter addresses Sapphira vv. 7-9
 - i. You have “tested” the Spirit of the Lord
contra God's command Ex 17:2; Dt 6:16-18; Lk 4:12
 - ii. “Satan filled thy heart . . . you tested the Spirit” vv. 3, 9
Guilty of conspiracy (agreed together) to defraud the Holy Spirit
- f. The same fate is met by both husband and wife vv. 5, 10
- g. Fear of the Lord falls upon the people
cf. 4:33 – Great Power, Great Grace, Great Fear flow from Apostles' ministry

III. Lessons for the Church

- a. The call of grace is to purity of life and thought
Titus 2:9-12; Ps 119:10-11; I Pet 3:15-16
- b. The issue is not what you give, it is honesty in the giving Acts 5:4
- c. We must be what we are, not what we want people to believe we are Rom 12:3
Ananias wanted to be **seen** as like Barnabas without **being** like him
- d. In general, lying to the Church is lying to God, since the church represents God's Kingdom on earth.