

## **Acts 4:32 – 5:42: The Danger of Division**

Greg Wendschlag February 27, 2022

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***“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8***

### **The Sin and Judgement of Ananias and Saphira vs 1 - 10**

*“Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. <sup>2</sup> With his wife’s full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles’ feet.” Vs 1-2*

- If Satan’s attacks from the outside are not effective, he will attack from the inside.
- Ananias and Saphira wanted to appear very generous to gain praise for themselves.
- They lied to the Holy Spirit and paid the ultimate price

*Remember: The church is God’s family. Preserving unity in the church is of utmost importance.*

### **The Immediate Effects of Justice vs 11-16**

*“Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events. The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people...they were highly regarded by the people. Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.” Vs 10-14*

- Great fear filled the people, yet the church was highly regarded.
- Signs, wonders and healings became the norm for the church.
- More and more people came to believe in Jesus.

*Remember: Holy fear which is healthy for the church. God is holy and judgement begins in God’s house.*

### **The Greater the Persecution the Greater the Power vs 17 - 42**

*“The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.” Vs 41-42*

- The greater the move of God the greater the resistance.
- The greater the resistance the greater the power of God.

*Remember: God allows persecution to strengthen not to destroy. Rejoice in the Lord always!*