

Book of Acts

Session 6: Acts 5

God is powerful in judgment and in love

1. Read Acts 5:1-16. What lesson did God teach by taking the lives of Ananias and Sapphira?
2. Compare the account of Ananias and Sapphira to Acts 4:36, 37. In what way are these accounts similar? What makes them very different?.
3. "Great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things" (Acts 5:11). "The angel said to [the shepherds], 'Fear not'" (Luke 2:10). Does God want us to be afraid? Does God want us not to be afraid? Explain how both are an essential part of our Christian lives.
4. The deaths of Ananias and Sapphira struck great fear in the hearts of all who heard. Yet more and more were added to the number of believers. Had we been there, we may have been afraid of what others would think and counseled God not to be so harsh in his preaching of the law. How does this bit of history of the early Christian church teach us to speak God's truth plainly and not worry that this will stifle interest among outsiders?

Rejoice When You Suffer for the Name of Jesus

5. Read Acts 5:17-42. If you had been released from an unjust imprisonment during the night, what would you naturally want to do? What did the apostles do?
6. It was a miracle that an angel broke at least 12 men out of prison. What added detail makes this miracle even more spectacular? (verse 23)
7. What was the bottom-line answer Peter gave the Sanhedrin? (verse 29)
8. Why did God raise Jesus to his own right hand as Prince and Savior?
9. Was Gamaliel's advice good or bad?

10. The apostles rejoiced because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the name of Jesus. Give examples of how your flesh has tricked you into fearing disgrace for Jesus' name. Give examples of occasions when the Lord removed your fear of disgrace and gave you joy in witnessing boldly.