

Acts 5:1-16 – “This Wasn’t In The Usher’s Training Manual”

INTRODUCTION:

- REVIVAL in the early Church ... Acts 2:41, 2:47
- Satan tried to stop it ... 4:3, 4:17-18
- RESULT ... 4:4, 4:20-21
- Satan tries to destroy Church from WITHIN ... 4:36-37, 5:1, 4:32

Acts 5:1-10 – The story of Ananias & Sapphira.

- 5:1-4** – Pretending ... is HYPOCRISY – Matthew 15:7-8
- Jesus had a soft spot for sinners – Matthew 9:13 ... BUT, no use for hypocrites – Matthew 6:2, 23:27
 - “*Hypocrisy*” is loving yourself more than God.

5:3 – Peter had the gift of discernment.

- 5:4** – ALL SIN ... is a sin against Almighty God – Psalms 51:4
- They didn’t take their sin seriously, but God did!

5:5-7 – The “*ushers*”, ushered them out!

5:8-10 – The SOURCE of their sin was Satan – **5:3** – John 8:44

- We are in a spiritual warfare – Ephesians 6:12
- 1 They LIED to the Holy Spirit – **5:3** – Ecclesiastes 5:4-5
 - We “*cheat*” God by “*living a LIE*”.
- 1 They TESTED the Spirit of the Lord, and LOST! – **5:9**
 - RESULT – To Ananias & Sapphira – **5:5, 5:10**
 - RESULT – To the Church – **5:11** – It set an EXAMPLE.

5:12 – It brought the Church together.

5:13 – It separated the “wheat” from the “tares”.

5:14 – It caused the Church to grow.

5:15-16 – It demonstrated the power of God.

- “*There are too many hypocrites in the church!*” – ADMITTING it is the first step in fighting the spiritual battle.

CONCLUSION:

- Don’t play games with God ... He always wins! Proverbs 14:12
- God takes His Church & His holiness seriously – Matthew 15:7-8
- We KNOW what is right & wrong – Proverbs 14:12
- God has a WARNING for imperfect people ... Galatians 6:7, Numbers 32:23b
- It’s better to go to God FIRST ... and REPENT.