

Studies in Acts

Study six

Key verse: Acts 5:4b

What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God.”



Big Idea: It is a dangerous thing to claim to be a believer while your heart actions prove you otherwise.

Kick Off

What is the difference between little white lies and big whoppers? Think of some lies you have told in your life. What were the reasons for why you lied?

STUDY

Read Acts 4:32-5:11.

This section gives us great insight into the fellowship of the early church and compares the genuine Christ motivated action of Barnabas with the lying attempt by Ananias and Sapphira to imitate Barnabas' generosity.

1. Work through 4: 32-35 and discuss all the different aspects of the early church's fellowship.

The believers were very united v32. 'one heart and mind'...

2. What caused the people to be selfless?

3. Is this passage saying we shouldn't have personal possessions as Christians?

4. What constitutes a 'needy' person in the passage?

5. What do you think of Joseph's nickname v36-7?

- How did he earn it?
- why would his reputation be something others might envy?

6. What things were Ananias and Sapphira after in doing what they did?

- Who motivated them? How is this typical of his work?

7. What does Peter say about private property and believers vv3-4?

8. What this couple did is called a 'lie' and a 'test' why?

9. Do you think God's judgment on this couple was so extreme because the New Covenant church had just began? cf, Josh 7 for a comparison judgement concerning the concealing wealth at the start of the Old Covenant people's time in the Promised Land.

THINK AND APPLY

How is 'great fear' a positive thing within a believing community?

Hypocrisy or playing the part is always unacceptable to God. How are we prone to be hypocrites today? cf. Matt 6:1-18

PRAYER

What can you pray about arising from this study?



**For next week
Read
Acts 5:12-42**