

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 6 March 2016..... Acts 1 Entrusted
- 2) 13 March..... Acts 2 Empowered and Unified
- 3) 20 March..... Acts 3 Benevolent
- 4) 27 March..... Luke 24 Resurrected!
- 5) 3 April..... Acts 4 Courageous
- 6) 10 April..... **Acts 5 Integrity & Faithful**
- 7) 17 April..... Acts 6 Selfless
- 8) 24 April..... Acts 7 Forgiving
- 9) 1 May..... Acts 8 Obedient
- 10) 8 May..... Acts 9 Converted & Bold
- 11) 15 May..... Acts 10 Accepting
- 12) 22 May..... Acts 11 Engaging
- 13) 29 May..... Acts 12 Extraordinary

INTRODUCTION

- Church discipline seems harsh, and the Apostles are thrown into jail for the 2nd and 3rd time. Can anything good come out of this?
- What kind of god is our God? Is He a loving, benevolent God more willing to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness, or is He more willing to hit us with a baseball bat when we sin?

Background on the Ananias and Sapphira Situation

- The early church saw the need to pool their resources together to help the less fortunate within their fellowship **Acts 4:32-37**
 - ♦ Joseph (aka, Barnabas) was notably singled out as selling and donating all the proceeds from his property to the Church
- Christians were not required to liquidate their assets and give them to the Apostles – Such acts were purely voluntary
 - ♦ E.g., We will see later that Christians often met in the spacious homes of the more wealthier believers for church and fellowship, so they didn't sell off everything..... **Acts 5:42; 12:12**
- We are encouraged to “provoke one another to love and good works” (**Heb 10:24**), so it is possible Ananias and Sapphira got caught up with whatever fervor and emotional appeals might have been made to help the poor and needy within their church
- Unfortunately, the desire for praise without sacrifice led to a failure of integrity, & without integrity the Church could suffer immensely

Passage	Comments
5:12-16	<p>Apostles Worked Many Signs & Wonders & Healed ALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv12,15-16. Miracles continued unabated for a season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v12. The early believers met within Herod's temple. They seemed reluctant to give up their Jewish roots. ♦ v15. Something new seems to be happening with people waiting for Peter's shadow to cross their path for them to receive a healing – WOW! ♦ v16. Just as we see in the Gospels, ALL were being healed of any and every imaginable ailment • vv13-14. “None of the rest dared to associate with them”, yet, the church continued to remarkably grow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ People had to “count the cost” whether it was worth it to convert to a faith that might cost one's life
Food for Thought	<p>Can We Expect More of the Same – More Signs and Wonders, Healings and Miracles for TODAY?</p> <p>If the “signs of an Apostle” (2Cor 12:12) were continuing unabated throughout Church history, we would see more sudden deaths in churches, angelic prison escapes, people being healed by apostolic shadows and napkins, and ultimately, the continued growth of God's word well beyond our current 66 books of the Bible. But We Don't!</p> <p>Again, it is not due to a lack of faith of the healer or of the sick, but by God's plan for that time period .. Heb 2:3-4</p>
5:17-42	<p>Results of 2nd and 3rd Imprisonments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why isn't God more consistent? Why does He allow some prisoners of the faith to be freed and others die? • v42. Notice that believers started to now meet in homes as well as in the temple. But why Every Day? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Is meeting 2 days each week, as most do, enough?

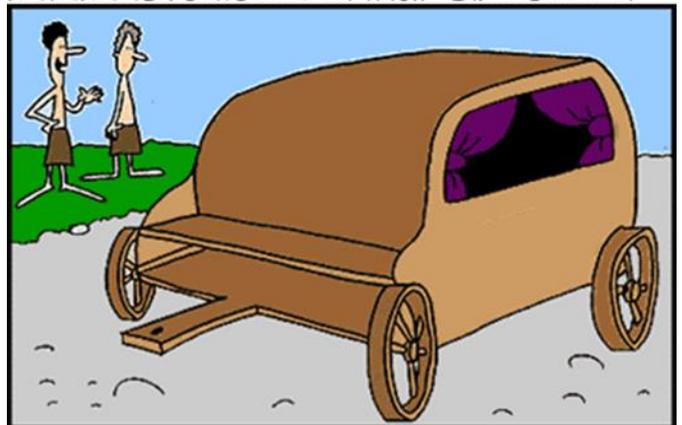
CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Ananias and Sapphira (assuming they were saved) lost their lives but not their salvation. Salvation is a gift of God and cannot be earned by merit or lost through demerits.
- God is not 50% Love and 50% Just. He is 100% Love and 100% Just, 100% Righteous and 100% Holy
- YES, God's discipline seems very harsh at times, especially to those on the receiving end – but it is out of love to protect and preserve His people from even more disastrous consequences

NEXT WEEK: Acts 6. Problems within the church had to be quickly resolved for the church to continue growing

Passage	Comments
Acts 5:1-11	<p>Harsh Church Discipline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why didn't Peter give Ananias and Sapphira the opportunity to repent? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Possibly, they were only sorry for getting caught. Their attitudes and actions demonstrated contempt for their fellow church members, leaders, and, more importantly, God. • Peter pointed out that Satan “filled” his heart to lie, but Ananias was still held accountable for his actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Recall how Satan entered into the heart of Judas to betray Jesus for 30 shekels..... John 13:2 • Why does God's judgment not come on others more often? “There is severe discipline for him who forsakes the way; whoever hates reproof will die” Prov 15:10
One Time Occurrences of Severe Discipline	<p>God Sometimes Invoked a Punishment Only Once as an Example for Others to Take Note and Beware</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who committed idolatry in violation of Commandment #2 were slain Exodus 32 • A man cursed God in violation of Commandment #3 and was stoned Lev 24:11-16 • A man picked up fire wood on the Sabbath in violation of Commandment #4 and was stoned..... Num 15:32-35 • Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Church and died immediately at Peter's feet Acts 5:1-11 • Some Corinthians took lightly the communion table and they got sick and some even died 1Cor 11:30

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I got this hearse-chariot right after the Ananias/Sapphira incident. If Christians keep lying my business will soar.