

INTRODUCTION:

Buenas Tardes – Discipulos; jesu cristo tai ama!

Invitation to send prayer requests:

Send prayer requests to: ptwente@gmail.com

This last session -- Purity and Power -- The Hypocrisy of Ananias and Sapphira
Hypocrisy - Hipocrite
Hipocresia; hipocrita

We have here the Apostle Peter's detection of the tragic account.

It's the account of Ananias and Sapphira

lying to God, a deception, a device of Satan.

Here Satan changes his tactics from persecution and threats to destroy the early church from without.

To joining the church and making hypocrisy a permanent part of it.

This event causes the early church to go from purity and power, to one of great fear!

We need to examine ourselves as to our own hypocrisy and that of the church bodies that we are a part of..

In this passage of Acts chapter 5, God will drive home how importance purity and holiness are!

The necessity of being pure;

of being holy; of being without hypocrisy or pretense.

It's good for us to learn from this passage.

This is for you for me and for our church!

Opening Prayer

Read (Vs. 1)

Act 5:1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession.

Act 5:1 MAS un varón llamado Ananías, con Safira su mujer, vendió una posesión,

1 But

Speaks of a complete change in direction.

In the past several verses we see the early church, as Pastor John has taught us
Of having purity and innocence, having great power, grace and unity!

But now in these next few verses, we're going to see a complete change of
direction.

We're going to see Satan changing his attack
from persecution and threats from without
to the sin of lying and hypocrisy from within.

a certain man named Ananias,

This is in contrast to Barnabas and others

His name means "gracious" But we see Ananias was not so.

with Sapphira his wife,

whose name means "beautiful" The name likely comes from the precious sapphire
stone. But whatever her name, her actions were totally wrong.

sold a possession.

The possession was their own.

But here we see that when they saw the great generosity of Barnabas,

How well he was respected and received,

Ananias and Sapphira decided they wanted the same respect and recognition.

Read v. 2

***Act 5:2 And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it,
and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet.***

*Act 5:2 Y defraudó del precio, sabiéndolo también su mujer; y trayendo una parte,
púsola á los pies de los apóstoles.*

And he kept back part of the proceeds

There was nothing wrong with the fact that they kept back part of the money.

They had a right to do that.

The property had been theirs

They had the right to do with the money whatever they wished.

Their problem, their sin, was that they lied about it.

They gave the impression they were giving all

when actually they were keeping part of it for themselves.

his wife also being aware of it,

We're told his wife also was aware of the situation,

She was a part the deception to hold some of the proceeds of sale back for
themselves.:

and brought a certain part

We're not told how much was held back,

but the fact that some was held back
when giving the impression that all had been given,
is the problem.

and laid it at the apostles' feet

Ananias apparently brought the portion of the proceeds as the rest of the church
did,

Bringing it to make a show of their generous giving.

Most likely there were a number of motives that contributed to this action.

Pride, ambition; the desire for recognition and praise.

How strong are these motives in you?

Read (Vs. 3-6) Peter confronts Ananias –

Act 5:3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?"

Act 5:3 Y dijo Pedro: Ananías, ¿por qué ha llenado Satanás tu corazón á que mintieses al Espíritu Santo, y defraudases del precio de la heredad?

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?"

God apparently gave Peter supernatural knowledge of what Ananias had done.

This spiritual gift, called the word of knowledge, is mentioned in *1 Corinthians 12:8*.

Peter did not accuse Ananias of lying to the church, or to the apostles, but to the Holy Spirit Himself.

When Peter said this, Ananias must have been crushed.

Certainly, he was expecting praise for his spectacular gift,

but was rebuked instead keeping back part of the sales proceeds for himself.

Satan had filled the heart of Ananias,

yet Peter could ask why he has conceived this thing in your heart.

Satan can influence the life of a believer,

even a spirit-filled believer,

but he can't do your sinning for you.

Ananias had to conceive it in his heart.

So Peter confronts him with this hypocrisy.

Why he would do this thing of pretending to give everything to God when he was actually holding something back?

Notice Peter said you are lying to the Holy Spirit.

Then later he said you've not lied to man but to God.

So that lying to the Holy Spirit is equivalent to lying to God,

This indicates that the Holy Spirit is God, one of the three persons of the divine Trinity.

A beautiful passage with respect with the deity of the Holy Spirit.

Act 5:4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

Act 5:4 Reteniéndola, ¿no se te quedaba á ti? y vendida, ¿no estaba en tu potestad? ¿Por qué pusiste esto en tu corazón? No has mentido á los hombres, sino á Dios.

While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control?

Peter freely acknowledges that the land and its value belonged to Ananias alone; he was completely free to do with it what he wanted.

His crime was not withholding the money, but in deceptively implying that he was giving it all.

Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

The sin was hypocrisy.

Pretending to bring in everything, yet holding back for themselves.

That's wanting the applause of men, giving the impression they were giving everything to God when really they were holding back from God.

The spirit of Ananias is alive and well in the church today.

Far too many want to be considered more "spiritual", more holy than we are!

Act 5:5 Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.

Act 5:5 Entonces Ananías, oyendo estas palabras, cayó y espiró. Y vino un gran temor sobre todos los que lo oyeron.

Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last.

Peter did not pronounce a "death sentence" on Ananias.

He simply confronted him with his sin and Ananias fell down dead.

Peter was probably more surprised than anyone when Ananias fell down dead!

God struck Ananias dead for his sin.

Doesn't this seem rather harsh?

Remember what God did at other occasions, in striking people dead:

The Profane fire of Nadab and Abihu in Leviticus when establishing His priesthood;

Achan sinning at the Battle of Jericho in Joshua as the new nation entered the Promised Land;
Uzzah in 2 Samuel 6 in moving the Ark of God to Jerusalem
Now here in the early church is the example of the death of Ananias and Sapphira!
Ananias received exactly what he deserved;
he simply could not live in the atmosphere of purity that marked the church at that time.
What Ananias did also must be seen in the context of its time.
This was a critical juncture for the early church,
Satan waned to corrupt the entire church at its root.
The Church has never been harmed or hindered by opposition from without;
it has been perpetually harmed and hindered by dangers and perils from within.

So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.

Surely, this is one of the great understatements of the Bible!
God's purpose was accomplished in the church at large:

Act 5:6 And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.

Act 5:6 Y levantándose los mancebos, le tomaron, y sacándolo, sepultáronlo.

Act 5:6 And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.

This practice is even current in the present time. They bury the person the day they die.

Read Verses (Vs. 7-11)

Act 5:7 Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

Act 5:7 Y pasado espacio como de tres horas, sucedió que entró su mujer, no sabiendo lo que había acontecido.

Act 5:7 Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

Sapphira came in where the apostles were,
expecting to see her husband among the apostles, and chief men,
in great honor and esteem for what he had done;
That he would be on equal footing with Barnabas and others,
who had sold all they had, and brought the whole price of their possessions into the church.
She knew that her husband kept back part of the price of the land,

She know how much it was, and what he brought to the apostles;
but she did not know that the fraud was detected, nor what followed;
as that her husband was immediately struck dead,
and was carried out and buried;

Act 5:8 And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much."

Act 5:8 Entonces Pedro le dijo: Dime : ¿vendisteis en tanto la heredad? Y ella dijo: Sí, en tanto.

Act 5:8 And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?"

She was given a chance to give the right answer.
tell me whether you sold the land for so much;
naming the sum of money which Ananias had brought;

She said, "Yes, for so much."

She answered, yes, just for that sum, and no more!
So she lied about the sales proceeds.

Act 5:9 Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."

Act 5:9 Y Pedro le dijo: ¿Por qué os concertasteis para tentar al Espíritu del Señor? He aquí á la puerta los pies de los que han sepultado á tu marido, y te sacarán.

Act 5:9 Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?"

How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?
Sapphira was a knowing and willing participant in the sin,
In the cover-up.
God's judgment of her is just as righteous as His judgment of Ananias.

Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."

He knew what had happened to Ananias, who dropped dead.
Now he knows what will happen to Sapphira, who was in full agreement with what had been done.

Act 5:10 Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband.

Act 5:10 Y luego cayó á los pies de él, y espiró: y entrados los mancebos, la hallaron muerta; y la sacaron, y la sepultaron junto á su marido.

Act 5:10 Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last

In like manner, and by the same hand of God as her husband before, She fell down dead.

And the young men came in and found her dead,

the young men who had buried her husband came into the house at that instant, and found her dead upon the floor, at the feet of the Apostle Peter:

and carrying her out, buried her by her husband.

Act 5:11 So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

Act 5:11 Y vino un gran temor en toda la iglesia, y en todos los que oyeron estas cosas

Act 5:11 So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things

It doesn't really need to tell you that great fear came upon all the church:. I mean that really sobered everybody up!

Now this was the purity and this is the result of power.

Which was increased much more by Sapphira's death:

Read (Vs. 12-14) Many Signs and Wonders Done

Act 5:12 And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.

Act 5:13 Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly.

Act 5:14 And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,

In Summary:

The life that Jesus calls us into is totally different than the life that hypocrisy produces!

Jesus denounces hypocrisy to the Scribes and Pharisees!

Mat 23:28 (Jesus to the Scribes & Pharisees) *Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.*

We need to be careful of wanting people to be thinking of us being better than we are.

Hypocrisy will put an unbearable and miserable burden on you – trying to live each day at a false standard that isn't you That you can't live up to.

No one is going to be perfectly like Jesus.

We need to take heed with our expectation of ourselves and others.

If we expect perfection, we will drive people into acting!

Notice how important this is to Jesus!

Luk 12:1b-2 (Jesus to the people – Beware of Hypocrisy) ... "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. [2] For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known.

Rom 12:9 *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.*

1Pe 2:1 *Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, ..that you may grow.*

What does Hypocrisy do?

It **kills your witness**. It will kill your witness as others see the masks you wear and the act you put on.

Hypocrisy **kills your joy**. It will kill your joy!

As you analyze and criticize others in order to justify your own deceit.

Hypocrisy **kills your peace**. It will kill your peace as you live in fear that someone will someday see the real you.

Put hypocrisy away. Give it up! Be free! In Jesus' Name.

Jesus denounced hypocrisy continually in his public ministry –

It had become so firmly entrenched in Judaism in His day.

In Mt. 23 He said, woe to you Scribes and Pharisee, you hypocrites!

7 times repeated!

He denounces hypocrisy because:

1- Once hypocrisy gets established in a local church, it will destroy it.

It will not be an effective instrument of God.

**Hypocrisy will result in whom will be promoted into position of leadership.
Will it be spiritual people or those who are the best actors!
What's rewarded in your environment – your church?
Then we move into that type of thing.
Not light, not honesty, not transparency –
When it become widespread, the beauty and innocence of the church
described in chapter 4 disappears.
The Holy Spirit is quenched and the Holy Spirit is grieved!**

**2- Hypocrisy is not being perfect. It is acting!
Deliberately giving the appearance with an intent to deceive –
wanting to look more spiritual than I am. Pretending! Deceiving**

**3- Hypocrisy always results in death,
our witness,
our peace,
our joy.**

Cure for hypocrisy. What are we do do?

**1Recognize that it is from Satan,
It destroys what is most important to us.
Destroying our purity and our power!
In privacy of my heart we need to ask the Lord
– if I've settled into hypocrisy in my life –
Am I one thing in a church? In the presence of others?
Am I another thing in the rest of my life?
This a very sobering and an important passage:
Here, hypocrisy, deceit, pretense – this kind of thing is not to go on!**

**2Recognize that hypocrisy is a sin.
We need to recognize and repent of it
“if we confess our sins to God and to 1 John 1:9–
We need to be walking in the light, coming out of this very complicated,
dark, impure life.**

**3We need to identify and repent of the sin that I'm hiding with my
hypocrisy.**

**Hypocrisy is always a secondary sin that hides my secret sin-
maybe it's pride!**

Constantly portraying myself that is something more than I am.

Selfish ambition?

Trying to be something or somebody else

Remember how special to the Lord you are!

**You're the only one that has the gift that He has given you in the place
where He has placed you.**

Be yourself, fully surrendered to Him!

Be who the Lord wants you to be!

**4Determine by God's grace not to be a hypocrite. Yes, Lord, maybe this is
a great tendency of mine,**

I want to make a commitment not to have hypocrisy in my life

**Help me to recognize there is no need for hypocrisy when I realize that I
am accepted in the Beloved.**

I, We do not have to live a life of hypocrisy.

***Psa 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my
anxieties;***

***Psa 139:24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way
everlasting.***

Lord, take my hypocrisy!

I give it to you.

**Give me faith to trust that You will take it away from me and keep me
from it.**

CLOSING PRAYER: