

THE BOOK OF ACTS

ACTS 5:1-15 | LESSON SUMMARY

Deceit

ACTS 5:1-2, "But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet." (ESV)

- Is it really that big a deal?
 - Psalm 24:4, "Only those with pure hands and hearts, who do not practice dishonesty and lying." (TLB)
 - It's not about the money.
 - **ACTS 5:4**, "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God."
- God didn't need Ananias' money and Ananias could've kept however much he wanted.
 - Ananias falls dead immediately
- About three hours later, Sapphira approaches and repeats the lie
 - 1 Timothy 6:10, "the love of money"
 - "kept back" = nosphizomai, which is the same word used for Akan's theft in Joshua 7 and in Titus 2:10, also referring to theft



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ACTS 5:11, "And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things." (ESV)

- There was no cover-up

Deliverance

ACTS 5:15, "...so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them." (ESV)

- There is much debate over the healing of the woman who touched Jesus' robe, as well as this passage about Peter's shadow.
 - Though we might take issue with the idea, Luke does not seem to
 - Superstition doesn't exclude genuine belief
 - People saw legitimacy in what the disciples believed and practiced

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Luke Strelan, *Strange Acts; Studies in the Cultural World of the Acts of the Apostles*, Randall Price, *Zondervan Handbook of Biblical Archeology*, *The Holman Bible Atlas*

