



Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Lesson 29 – Acts 5

People — Who is involved?

Ananias and Sapphira lied about their gift.
Peter rebuked them for their sin.
The apostles did many miracles and were arrested by the high priest and those with him.
The Jewish Council interrogated the apostles.
Gamaliel advised caution in the Council.

Places — Where does it happen?

Jerusalem

Pearls — What information will help me to understand better?

- Vs 1 – The previous chapter (vss. 32-37) provide the background for the benevolence.
- Vs 3 – Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit. Vs. 4 says that he lied to God. The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person. One cannot lie to a thing. One lies to a person.
- Vs 4 – Deception was the sin. They had a right to keep part of the price as it was in their control. They did not have to give it all unless they declared that they were giving it all.
- Vs 8 – They lied by saying they had sold the land for "so much."
- Vs 14 – The growth of the church had gone from 3000 (2:41), to 5000 (4:4), to multitudes (5:14).
- Vs 17 – Notice the animosity was focused among the Sadducees who rejected the idea of resurrection.
- Vs 28 – Their order here recalls the demand of Acts 4:17-18.
- Vs 29 – The apostles' response recalls the answer of Peter and John in Acts 4:19.
- Vs 32 – The Holy Spirit is given as a witness; first to the apostles (John 15:26) and through them to all believers who obey the message He delivered through the gospel.
- Vs 34 – Gamaliel was the great teacher of the school of Hillel in his day. He upheld the traditions of the Pharisees. Gamaliel was the grandson of Hillel. Paul was one of his students (Acts 22:3).
- Vs 36 – Theudas was a revolutionary who led a movement that failed.
- Vs 37 – Judas was another revolutionary who led a rebel group during a census. Josephus mentions a Judas who led such a revolt in A.D. 6 (Antiquities 18:1:1; 20:5:2).
- Vs 40 – It is amazing that the Council agreed, but they beat the apostles and renewed their restriction.
- Vs 42 – The apostles continued preaching in spite of the Council's instructions.

Perspectives – What may I learn from this chapter?

1. The Lord requires honesty and integrity from his followers.
2. We must obey God rather than men.
3. We must not cease to preach Jesus whatever the circumstances.