



G – Gather for Prayer

Father,

You are great and worthy of worship. Keep my worship pure and undefiled by selfish desires or schemes of the enemy.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

R – Read the Text (Acts 5:1-11)

1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, ² and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. ³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? ⁴ While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." ⁵ And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it. ⁶ The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.

⁷ Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸ And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?" And she said, "Yes, that was the price." ⁹ Then Peter said to her, "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as well." ¹⁰ And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹ And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.

O – Observe what God has said

What were Ananias and Sapphira guilty of? Why do you suppose they did it?

Why do you suppose God's judgment was so severe? How do you think this impacted the church?

W – Work on Application

Therefore, it is incumbent upon us, in response to this text, to engage in serious self-reflection and introspection by asking *why* do we worship and *how* this shows up in the context of the church. That you are *here* (that is, if you happen to be here) is only part of what God desires and others need. That you *give* (if, that is, you are giving anything at all) is only part of what God desires and uses to provide for the church. That you *serve* (that is, if you are serving) is only part of what God desires and is used for the benefit of others. God cares also about *why* you are here, *why* you are giving, *why* you are serving and how this shows up as we engage in the mission we have been entrusted with. Are you here because you want to appear a certain way/stroke your ego/score points with the right people? Is your giving

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(Acts 5.1-11)

dependent on when and how things serve you or your agenda or self-interests? Do you serve to be seen and even then only on your terms and in personally curated ways?

What might we do to protect ourselves from being used of Satan to rob the Lord of true worship?

Family Weekly Memory Verse: *"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and truth."-John 4:24*