



## Acts - The Birth of the Church - Week 9 - A Tale of Two Givers

Acts 4:36-5:16

### Discussion Questions for March 22nd, 2026

1. This passage helps us learn a moral story, just like simple children's stories such as the Three Little Pigs or the Tortoise and the Hare. What other simple stories or fables can you remember? Summarize a story and the moral it conveys. (Anyone remember some of these being Looney Tunes cartoons?)
2. Our Scripture today includes verses 12 through 16, which go beyond the story of Ananias and Sapphira. Read them together, and discuss how the first 11 verses flow right into this paragraph. Do you see any common themes or connections?
3. **Main Idea: God Wants You to Fear Your Sin.** If Peter had just preached a good sermon about Achan's sin from Joshua 7, would it have had the same effect as the sudden deaths of Ananias and Sapphira? What would you say to someone who thinks God was being unnecessarily harsh here in Acts chapter 5?
4. **Point #1: God Wants You to Fear...Deceit.** Ananias kept back some of the money "with his wife's knowledge." So, there were two humans involved, which means there were two chances for someone to choose a better path. Do you have another person to help you make good choices? How can a spouse or a best friend encourage you to give up sinful ways?
5. **Point #2: God Wants You to Fear...Lying.** Give an example of a little white lie. Are there any that seem acceptable in everyday life? Why might we be better off running from lying altogether than trying to find acceptable lies?
6. **Point #3: God Wants You to Fear...Self-Sufficiency.** Isn't it just being responsible to work toward self-sufficiency? After all, how could a society on earth function if most people aren't self-sufficient? This is certainly a midwestern value, but can fly in the face of biblical truth if we're not careful. Give some examples of how a

Christian can find sufficiency in God, and not in worldly things like money.

- **Point #4: God wants You you Fear...Greed.** (The last question covers this one too.)

7. **Point #5: God Wants You to Fear...Hypocrisy.** In what areas of life are you tempted to appear better than you really are? What are the fears hiding behind this kind of behavior? In the sermon, Pastor Shaen said, "The cross has leveled everything. You can drop the act." What did he mean by that? How does a better understanding of the cross help get rid of hypocrisy?
8. Pray together that we learn the lesson of Ananias and Sapphira. Pray that we can follow the example of Barnabas, who gave with his whole heart.