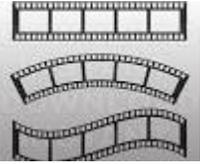


Acts 5 - Lesson 6



1. **Summary of Events:** Write down the location, specific witnesses and what happened in each scene of this chapter.

Scene	Passage	Location	Who are the witnesses?	What happened? What power was received and how were these people witnesses of Christ?
5.1	5:1-6			
5.2	5:7-11			
5.3	5:12-16			
5.4	5:17-20			
5.5	5:21-26			
5.6	5:27-32			

5.7	5:33-39			
5.8	5:40-42			

How do these events relate to the overall theme of the book?

Acts 5

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.

¹² At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico. ¹³ But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴ And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to *their number*, ¹⁵ to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. ¹⁶ Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.

¹⁷ But the high priest rose up, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸ They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail. ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, ²⁰ "Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life." ²¹ Upon hearing *this*, they entered into the temple about daybreak and *began* to teach.

Now when the high priest and his associates came, they called the Council together, even all the Senate of the sons of Israel, and sent *orders* to the prison house for them to be brought. ²² But the officers who came did not find them in the prison; and they returned and reported back, ²³ saying, "We found the prison house locked quite securely and the guards standing at the doors; but when we had opened up, we found no one inside." ²⁴ Now when the captain of the temple *guard* and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them as to what would come of this. ²⁵ But someone came and reported to them, "The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!" ²⁶ Then the captain went along with the officers and *proceeded* to bring them *back* without violence (for they were afraid of the people, that they might be stoned).

²⁷ When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. ³¹ He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses of these things; and *so is* the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

³³ But when they heard this, they were cut to the quick and intended to kill them. ³⁴ But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law, respected by all the people, stood up in the Council and gave orders to put the men outside for a short time. ³⁵ And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you propose to do with these men. ³⁶ For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and

a group of about four hundred men joined up with him. But he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷ After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census and drew away *some* people after him; he too perished, and all those who followed him were scattered. ³⁸ So in the present case, I say to you, stay away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or action is of men, it will be overthrown; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God.”

⁴⁰ They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and *then* released them. ⁴¹ So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for *His* name. ⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus *as* the Christ.

2. Take a moment to write out our memory verse for this week: Acts 10:42-43.

3. Read through Chapter 5 and underline each time you see a reference to God and Jesus. Write what you learn about them from this chapter. The HOLY SPIRIT is also a key theme so note your observations in the next question.

God:

Jesus:

4. Highlight/mark key words and write down what you learn about them and how they continue to express the theme of Acts.

HOLY SPIRIT-

POWER-

WITNESSES-

5. Some followers of Jesus say, "I am a witness for Christ because I show kindness to people". This may be influenced by Saint Francis of Assisi who said, "Preach the gospel, and if necessary use words."

How would you respond to this statement based on the examples of the apostles in Acts 5?
(See Acts 5:20, 21, 25, 28, and 40)

6. Let's talk about Ananias and Sapphira. If you read Chapter 4 and 5 together, there seems to be an abrupt change in the tone.

- ◇ Which people are being contrasted at the end of chapter 4 and the beginning of chapter 5?

- ◇ What was the first public sin recorded in the early Church? What exactly did Ananias do? Look up the following verses and write what God thinks about this particular sin.
 - Psalm 24:1-5

 - Proverbs 12:22

- John 8:44
- Revelation 22:12-15

7. What does Peter say to Sapphira about her and her husband's sin in verse 9? Look up the following verses to help you understand:

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 78:5-21

8. Many of us struggle with lying and/or deceit. If God called it out as the first public sin in the church, then we should examine ourselves in this area.

Definitions:

Lying: "a false statement with deliberate intent to deceive"

Deceit: "acts or practices...intended to... mislead by false appearance or statement"

Random House College Dictionary

Look at the following biblical examples of lying and deceit to see which of these you struggle with the most. Rate yourself on a scale of 1-10.

(1-3) Never/Rarely

(4-6) Occasionally/Sometimes

(7-9) Often

(10) I really struggle with this!

Types of Lies

1. **Outright lies:** to swear that you are telling the truth when you know you are lying. “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” (Exodus 20:16)
My score _____

2. **False promises:** Some people make promises that they have no intention of keeping or know they cannot keep them. This is a form of misleading people. Laban is an example of this in Genesis 29:18, 25.
My score _____

3. **Flattery:** To say something that you don’t really mean to get something you want. Psalm 62:4 says, “They have counseled only to thrust him down from his high position; They delight in falsehood; They bless with their mouth, but inwardly they curse.”
My score _____

4. **Hypocrisy:** to pretend to be something you are not; to give the impression you are more righteous than you are (Malachi 1:14). For example, you might talk about the importance of confessing sin to your children when you yourself do not model confession when you sin.
My score _____

5. **Half-truths:** a statement that is partially true to deflect the real truth from being stated. For example, Joseph’s brothers deceived their father about what happened to Joseph when they said, “We found this; please examine *it* to *see* whether it is your son’s tunic or not.” (Genesis 37:32) It was a question to deflect the truth of what they did. A half-truth is minimizing our involvement in something so we are not implicated.
My score _____

6. **Self-Deception:** Galatians 6:3 states, “If anyone thinks himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.” We often think we are more responsible than we are, speak more kindly than we do, are more compassionate than we are, etc. Remember the character Vizzini in *The Princess Bride* who thought he could outsmart anyone? He is a good example of someone who is self-deceived. Exaggeration can be a form of this also.
My score _____

9. How can you APPLY what you learned? You can use the acronym EPICS to help us look for specific ways.

Examples to follow:

*What did you learn in Chapter 5 about being a follower of Jesus? What was the example set for us in the early church?

Promises to expect:

Identity reminders

Commands to follow:

Sins to forsake: