

Ananias and Sapphira Lie to the Holy Spirit (c. Fall 33)

Acts 4:32–5:11

Private Property Owners Contribute Voluntarily to the Needs of the Community

4:32 Now the group of those who believed were one heart and soul, and no one said anything of what belonged to him was his own, but all *things* were theirs in common.

33 And with great power the apostles were giving testimony *to* the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on them all.

34 For there was not even anyone needy among them, because all those who were owners of plots of land or houses were selling *them* and bringing the proceeds of the things that were sold

35 and placing *them* at the feet of the apostles. And it was being distributed to each as anyone had need.

Introduction to Barnabas (Joseph), Who Later Ministered with Paul

36 So Joseph, who was called Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated “son of encouragement”), a Levite of Cyprus by nationality,

37 sold a field that belonged to him *and* brought the money and placed *it* at the feet of the apostles.

Ananias Conspires with His Wife Sapphira to Deceive the Apostles

5:1 Now a certain man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property,

2 and he kept back for himself *some* of the proceeds, and *his* wife was aware of *it*. And he brought a certain part *and* placed *it* at the feet of the apostles.

3 But Peter said, “Ananias, for what *reason* has Satan filled your heart, *that* you lied to the Holy Spirit and kept back for yourself *some* of the proceeds of the piece of land?

4 *When it* remained to you, did it not remain *yours*? And *when it* was sold, was it at your disposal? How *is it* that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to people, but to God!”

5 And *when* Ananias heard these words, he fell down *and* died. And great fear came on all those who heard about *it*.

6 So the young men stood up, wrapped him up, and carried *him* out *and* buried *him*.

Sapphira’s Part in the Deception is Revealed

7 And it happened that *there was* an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

8 And Peter said to her, “Tell me whether you *both* were paid this much *for* the piece of land.” And she said, “Yes, this much.”

9 So Peter *said* to her, “How *is it* that it was agreed by you *two* to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who buried your husband *are* at the door, and they will carry you out!”

10 And immediately she fell down at his feet and died. So *when* the young men came in, they found her dead, and carried *her* out *and* buried *her* with her husband.

11 And great fear came on the whole church and on all who heard about these *things*.

Signs and Wonders by the Apostles (c. 33/34)

Acts 5:12–16

12 Now many signs and wonders were being performed among the people through the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon’s Portico.

13 And none of the rest dared to join them, but the people spoke highly of them.

14 And even more believers in the Lord were being added, large numbers of both men and women,

15 so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and put *them* on cots and mats so that *when* Peter came by, at least *his* shadow would fall on some of them.

16 And the people of the towns around Jerusalem also came together, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, who were all being healed.

Jewish Persecution Intensifies (c. 33/34)

Acts 5:17–42

The Apostles are Imprisoned

17 Now the high priest rose up and all those *who were* with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), *and* they were filled with jealousy.

18 And they laid hands on the apostles and put them in the public prison.

An Angel Releases the Apostles

19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison and led them *out* *and* said,

20 “Go and stand in the temple *courts* and proclaim to the people all the words of this life.”

21 And *when they* heard *this*, they entered at daybreak into the temple *courts* and began teaching. Now *when* the high priest and those with him arrived, they summoned the Sanhedrin—even the whole council of elders of the sons of Israel—and sent to the prison to have them brought.

22 But the officers who came did not find them in the prison, and they returned *and* reported,

23 saying, “We found the prison locked with all security and the guards standing at the doors, but *when we* opened *them*, we found no one inside!”

24 Now when both the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed concerning them, *as to* what this might be.

25 But someone came *and* reported to them, “Behold, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple *courts* and teaching the people!”

The Apostles Willingly Go Before the Jewish Council

26 Then the captain went with the officers *and* brought them, not with force (for they were afraid of the people, lest they be stoned *by them*).

27 And *when they* had brought them, they made *them* stand in the Sanhedrin, and the high priest put a question to them,

28 saying, “We strictly commanded you not to teach in this name? And behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching! And you are intending to bring upon us the blood of this man!”

29 But Peter and the apostles answered *and* said, “It is necessary to obey God rather than men!

30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you killed *by* hanging *him* on a tree.

31 This one God has exalted to his right hand *as* Leader and 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 Now *when* they heard *this*, they were infuriated, and were wanting to execute them.

Gamaliel’s Wise Advice

34 But a certain man stood up in the Sanhedrin, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law respected by all the people, *and* gave orders to put the men outside for a short time.

35 And he said to them, “Men *and* Israelites, take care for yourselves what you are about to do to these men!

36 For before these days, Theudas rose up saying he was somebody. A number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was executed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing.

37 After this man, Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and caused people to follow him in revolt. And that one perished, and all who followed him were scattered.

38 And now I tell you, keep away from these men, and leave them alone, because if this plan or this matter is from people, it will be overthrown.

39 But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them, lest you even be found fighting against God.” So they were persuaded by him.

40 And they summoned the apostles, beat *them*, commanded *them* not to speak in the name of Jesus, and released *them*.

The Apostles Continue Preaching the Gospel

41 So they went out from the presence of the Sanhedrin rejoicing, because they had been considered worthy to be dishonored for the sake of the name.

42 Every day, both in the temple *courts* and from house *to house*, they did not stop teaching and proclaiming the good news *that* the Christ *was* Jesus.

Ministry Distinctions Within the Church (c. early 34)

Acts 6:1–6

1 Now in these days, *as* the disciples were increasing *in number*, a complaint arose by the Greek-speaking Jews against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution *of food*.

2 So the twelve summoned the community of disciples *and* said, “It is not desirable *that* we neglect the word of God to serve tables.

3 So, brothers, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and wisdom, whom we will put in charge of this need.

4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

5 And the statement pleased the whole group, and they chose Stephen (a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit), and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus (a convert from Antioch),

6 whom they stood before the apostles. And they prayed *and* placed *their* hands on them.

The Arrest of Stephen (c. Spring 34)

Acts 6:7–15

7 And the word of God kept spreading, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem was increasing greatly, and a large number of priests began obeying the faith.

8 Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people.

9 But some of those from the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up *and* disputed with Stephen.

10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.

11 Then they secretly instigated men who said, “We have heard him speaking blasphemous words against Moses and God!”

12 And they incited the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came up *and* seized him and brought *him* to the Sanhedrin.

13 And they put forward false witnesses who said, “This man does not stop speaking words against the holy place and the law!

14 For we have heard him saying that this Nazarene Jesus will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed down to us.”

15 And *as they* looked intently at him, all those who were sitting in the Sanhedrin saw his face *was* like the face of an angel.

Stephen’s Sermon (c. Spring 34)

Acts 7:1–53

1 And the high priest said, “Is it so concerning these *things*?”

2 So he said, “Men—brothers and fathers—listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham *while he* was in Mesopotamia, before he settled in Haran,

3 and said to him, ‘Go out from your land and from your relatives and come to the land that I will show you.’ [\[Gen 12:1\]](#)

4 Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans *and* settled in Haran. And from there, after his father died, he caused him to move to this land in which you now live.

5 And he did not give him an inheritance in it—not even a footstep—and he promised to give *it* to him for his possession, and to his descendants after him, although he did not have a child.

6 But God spoke like this: ‘His descendants will be foreigners in a foreign land, and they will enslave them and mistreat *them* four hundred years,

7 and the nation that they will serve as slaves, I will judge,’ God said, ‘and after these *things* they will come out and will worship me in this place.’ [\[Gen 15:13–14; Exod 3:12\]](#)

8 And he gave him the covenant of circumcision, and so he became the father of Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day, and Isaac *did so with* Jacob, and Jacob *did so with* the twelve patriarchs.

9 And the patriarchs, *because they* were jealous of Joseph, sold *him* into Egypt. And God was with him,

10 and rescued him from all his afflictions and granted him favor and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And he appointed him ruler over Egypt and all his household.

11 And a famine came over all Egypt and Canaan and great affliction, and our fathers could not find food.

12 So *when* Jacob heard *there* was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first.

13 And on the second *visit* Joseph was made known to his brothers, and the family of Joseph became known to Pharaoh.

14 So Joseph sent *and* summoned his father Jacob and all *his* relatives, seventy-five persons in *all*.

15 And Jacob went down to Egypt and died, he and our fathers.

16 And they were brought back to Shechem and buried in the tomb that Abraham had bought for a sum of silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem.

17 “But as the time of the promise that God had made to Abraham was drawing near, the people increased and multiplied in Egypt

18 until another king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. [\[Exod 1:8\]](#)

19 This man deceitfully took advantage of our people *and* mistreated our ancestors, causing them to abandon their infants so that they would not be kept alive.

20 At this time Moses was born, and he was beautiful to God. He was brought up *for* three months in *his* father’s house,

21 and *when* he was abandoned, the daughter of Pharaoh took him *up* and brought him *up* as her own son.

22 And Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was powerful in his words and deeds.

23 “But when he was forty years old, it entered in his heart to visit his brothers, the sons of Israel.

24 And *when he* saw one of them being unjustly harmed, he defended *him* and avenged the one who had been oppressed *by* striking down the Egyptian.

25 And he thought his brothers would understand that God was granting deliverance to them by his hand, but they did not understand.

26 And on the following day, he made an appearance to them *while they* were fighting and was attempting to reconcile them in peace, saying, ‘Men *and* brothers, why are you doing wrong to one another?’

27 But the one who was doing wrong to *his* neighbor pushed him aside, saying, ‘Who appointed you a ruler and a judge over us?’

28 You do not want to do away with me the same way you did away with the Egyptian yesterday, *do you*?’ [\[Exod 2:14\]](#)

29 And at this statement, Moses fled and became a foreigner in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.

30 “And *when* forty years had been completed, an angel appeared to him in the desert of Mount Sinai in the flame of a burning bush.

31 And *when* Moses saw *it*, he was astonished at the sight, and *when* he approached to look at *it*, the voice of the Lord came:

32 ‘I *am* the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob!’ So Moses began trembling *and* did not dare to look at *it*.

33 And the Lord said to him, ‘Untie the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.

34 I have certainly seen the mistreatment of my people *who are* in Egypt and have heard their groaning, and I have come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send you to Egypt.’ [Exod 3:1–10]

35 This Moses whom they had repudiated, saying, ‘Who appointed you a ruler and a judge?’—this man God sent *as* both ruler and redeemer with the help of the angel who appeared to him in the bush.

36 This man led them out, performing wonders and signs in the land of Egypt and at the Red Sea and in the wilderness *for* forty years.

37 “This is the Moses who said to the sons of Israel, ‘God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers.’ [Deut 18:15]

38 This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and who *with* our fathers received living oracles to give to us,

39 to whom our fathers were not willing to become obedient, but rejected *him* and turned *back* in their hearts to Egypt,

40 saying to Aaron, ‘Make us gods who will go on before us! For this Moses, who led us out from the land of Egypt—we do not know what has happened to him!’ [Exod 32:1]

41 And they manufactured a calf in those days, and offered up a sacrifice to the idol, and began rejoicing in the works of their hands.

42 But God turned away and gave them over to worship the host of heaven, just as it is written in the book of the prophets:

‘You did not bring offerings and sacrifices to me
for forty years in the wilderness, *did you*, house of Israel?

43 And you took along the tabernacle of Moloch
and the star of the god Rephan,
the images that you made, to worship them,
and I will deport you beyond Babylon!’ [Amos 5:25–27]

44 The tabernacle of the testimony belonged to our fathers in the wilderness, just as the one who spoke to Moses directed *him* to make it according to the design that he had seen,

45 and which, *after* receiving *it* in turn, our fathers brought in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out from the presence of our fathers, until the days of David,

46 who found favor in the sight of God and asked to find a habitation for the God of Jacob.

47 But Solomon built a house for him.

48 But the Most High does not live in *houses* made by human hands, just as the prophet says,

49 ‘Heaven *is* my throne
and earth *is* the footstool for my feet.
What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord,
or what *is the* place of my rest?

50 Did not my hand make all these *things*?’ [Isa 66:1–2]

51 “*You* stiff-necked *people* and uncircumcised in hearts and in *your* ears! [cf. Jer 4:4; 9:26] You constantly resist the Holy Spirit! As your fathers *did*, *so* also *do* you!

52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand about the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become,

53 *you* who received the law by directions of angels and have not observed *it!*”

The Martyrdom of Stephen / Introduction to Saul (Paul) (c. Spring 34)

Acts 7:54–8:1a

7:54 Now *when they* heard these *things*, they were infuriated in their hearts and gnashed *their* teeth at him.

55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked intently into heaven *and* saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

56 And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

57 But crying out with a loud voice, they stopped their ears and rushed at him with one purpose.

58 And *after they* had driven *him* out of the city, they began to stone *him*, and the witnesses laid aside their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 And they kept on stoning Stephen *as he* was calling out and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!”

60 And falling to *his* knees, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!” And *after he* said this, he fell asleep.

8:1a And Saul was agreeing with his murder.

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