

## **The Book of Acts: 'Till Death Do We Part'**

### **Acts 5:1-11**

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#### ***Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 (NJB)***

*<sup>4</sup> If you make a vow to God, discharge it without delay, for God has no love for fools. Discharge your vow. <sup>5</sup> Better a vow unmade than made and not discharged.*

#### ***Acts 5:1-11 (NKJV)***

*<sup>1</sup> But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession.*

*<sup>2</sup> And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

#### **What was their sin?**

Power, "sold a possession" (**Acts 5:1**).

Pride, "Keep back part of the price" (**Acts 5:2**).

Pretense, "You have...lied...to the Holy Spirit" (**Acts 5:3**).

*<sup>3</sup> But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?"*

Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote,

*"Sin has many tools, but a lie is the handle which fits them all."*

*<sup>4</sup> While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."*

**Peter addressed three important topics in his reply.**

**OWNERSHIP:** Ownership is a God-given right.

A thesis written by Hernando de Soto called:

***The mystery of capital: why capitalism triumphs in the West and fails everywhere else.***

*"Related it to the right of ownership, property rights. While in Indonesia he told the ministers that Indonesian barking dogs had the basic information they needed to set up a formal property system."*

In other words, even barking dogs understand property rights.

**SATAN:** Satan can fill hearts (he filled Judas' heart).

If Satan can't beat us, he'll join us. No sooner does money enter the picture and Satan shows up. What does that tell you? Money is a door for God's favor or His displeasure

**SIN:** We live in a culture that has all but eradicated sin. Sin is no longer sin; it is a “choice” even a “right,” and now it is “courage and bravery.”

*<sup>5</sup> Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. <sup>6</sup> And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.*

Some people God has struck dead. The exclusive list includes Nadab and Abihu, who offered strange fire upon God’s altar and were struck dead, and then there was Uzzah, who reached out and touched God’s ark when it was being transported to Jerusalem, and he was struck dead.

*<sup>7</sup> Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. <sup>8</sup> And Peter answered her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?” She said, “Yes, for so much.” <sup>9</sup> Then Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.” <sup>10</sup> Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. <sup>11</sup> So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.*

**APPLICATION:**

Cultivate a deep respect and reverence for God.

Possess my possession but do not be possessive.

Garner God’s favor and not His displeasure over my money.