

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*Doctrine and Duty for Disciples Series*

Acts of the Apostles

### **Values in Your Heart**

**Acts 4:32-5:11**

#### **Valuing the Church**

<sup>32</sup> Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. <sup>33</sup> And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, <sup>35</sup> and laid *them* at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need. <sup>36</sup> And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, <sup>37</sup> having land, sold *it*, and brought the money and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.

#### **Valuing Possessions**

**5** 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. <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? <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." <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*. <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.

1. Read v. 32-36 again.
  - How did they view their possessions?
  - What are characteristics made them of one accord?
  - How do you view your possessions?
  - Has prior experience of being generous affect your generosity today?
2. Do you think that there were any convictions of Ananias and Sapphira? Why or why not?
3. Do you think you can fool man with your actions and try to fool yourself, all the while knowing you are not fooling the Holy Spirit? What does this do to the true Christian?
4. What are the consequences of convictions without obedience?
5. How does obedience or disobedience change your spiritual growth trajectory?
6. How does today's verses and lesson change you as a follower of Jesus Christ?