

ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

Study 10: The Deadly Sin of Deception

READ Acts 4:32-5:11 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

While God's grace was clearly evident in the love and unity expressed in the early community of believers in Jerusalem, they were not perfect. There was temptation inspired by Satan, and the sin of deceit, caused by a selfish concern for a superior reputation. God, who knows the hearts of all people, exposed and judged this sin. God will not tolerate evil and deception among His people, who must be mindful of the fact that they should fear God as they are accountable to him who is holy, omniscient, and almighty.

Big idea: Since we are prone to the deadly sin of deception, we must proactively cultivate godly character.

Questions:

1. How important is strong, wise, and godly leadership in the church? Provide examples from the entire passage (4:32-5:11).
2. The gospel is not just a message to believe, but power to receive. Think of the many things in life that enslave. How did the power of the gospel provide freedom for the early church in 4:32-37?
3. Luke shows us that while the church was victorious, it wasn't perfect. How is Barnabas contrasted with Ananias and Sapphira?
4. Presumably, Ananias had received the gift of the Holy Spirit, so how is it that Peter could then say, "Why has Satan filled your heart?" (5:3).

5. The sin for which Ananias and Sapphira were judged was the sin of deception. What does it mean to deceive?
6. What does God think about deception? Why is deception such a deadly sin? See Prov 19:9; Luke 12:1-3; 1 Pet 2:1.
7. From Psalm 32:3-5, explain what David felt when he concealed his sin. How did he find freedom? See also Prov. 28:13. Stop and confess any hidden sins.
8. What areas of temptation do you struggle with that may cause you to fall into the trap of deception and hypocrisy?
9. How honest should we be about our personal struggles? Should we share all our struggles with everyone? What guidelines would apply here?
10. What was the result of God's swift judgement upon the church and why? See 5:5, 11.

STOP AND PRAY:

Glorify: *God for His perfect and righteous judgement upon sin*

Confess: *your sins of deception and hypocrisy and ask for God's forgiveness*

Pray: *that you might live a life that seeks to please God and not people*