Great Fear Came Upon the Whole Church (Acts 5:11)

Tony Mauck · Acts 5:1–11

INTRODUCTION

- And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard these things. There's the goal. A sound, healthy church, needs to possess that quality.
- What about counterfeits? What about those who might be numbered among the saved but have ill motives? Hypocrisy within the ranks would prove to be a very huge early obstacle.
- We have a Barnabas like action without the spirit and heart of Barnabas. We have a gift, but it is a gift with a lie attached.

1 Complicit in Their Deception of Others

Acts 5:4

- The issue before God was that these two were complicit in their deception of others.
- Peter makes it clear that the problem was not that they did not give it all and lay it at the apostles' feet.
- The implication is that they were giving the impression that they had given it all just as others had done.
- Notice the word conceived is used. They had hatched. They had schemed. And for what? A few moments of glory.
- Are we content with pats on the back and attaboys?
- We must likewise be concerned about desiring others to see us in an inflated way that misses the harsh reality of our weakness, our failings.

2 Behavior Ultimately Stands or Falls Before God

Psalm 139; Hebrews 4:13; John 12:48

- We must always be more concerned about God's assessment of us.
- Behavior ultimately stands or falls before God. Not men.
- There could well be counterfeits among us. And yet some will feel contented and secure and well because they are numbered among the right group of people. That's not safe in and of itself.
- Ultimately, your assessment of me, or my assessment of you, matters very little. What is ultimate is God's assessment of us.
- He that rejects me and does not receive my words has one that judges him. The word that I have spoken the same shall judge him on the last day.
- What we do is important, but please get this. Why we do it is even more important.

3 Failing Disciples Do Not Change the Validity of God's Message

Galatians 2; Revelation 3:4

- Failing disciples do not change the validity of God's message or the practice of truth by other believers.
- Because of God's actions on this occasion, the immediate consequences meted out to Ananias and Sapphira. The Lord's church is actually strengthened and grows as a result of this.
- It's so very easy to be appalled at what someone else has done and give us a pass for what we've done.
- Christians make mistakes. So it shouldn't shake us to the foundation.
- We must never allow the failings, disappointment, and inadequacies of men to affect how we view the validity and impact of truth.
- If I go off the deep end tomorrow, it doesn't mean that everything I preach for eight and a half years is false.

4 Though Rarely Immediate, Judgment Upon Evildoers Is Sure

2 Peter 3:4; Psalm 50

- Though rarely immediate, judgment upon evildoers is sure.
- No one has to fall dead today for us to know that ultimately what is done in secret will be shouted from the rooftops.
- They were the wrong sinners at the wrong time.
- I want to assure you of this. That the God of Acts 5 is no less real today.
- Because I kept silent, you thought I was just like you. But I will reprove you.

THE CHALLENGE

But listen, are you? In your heart of hearts, are you ready to meet the Lord? What does he think about your conduct? That's what really matters.

MY NOTES