

Acts 5: Purity, Power And Persistence.

I. (1-11): Church Purity.

God gave Peter supernatural knowledge (1 Cor 12:8) of what Ananias had done.

They sold the possession and gave only a portion while implying that they had sacrificially given it all. It could've been their plan to give all but they changed their mind. They came expecting praise and recognition for his spectacular gift, but were rebuked instead. In the rebuke, however, Peter gave them a chance to repent.

Their greatest shock was being found out; they weren't just fooling Peter or the rest of the believers, they were lying to God.

The contempt of God, sacrilegious defrauding, perverse vanity and ambition, lack of faith, the corrupting of a good and holy order, and hypocrisy.

Proverbs 15:8a - *The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord...*

Was God too harsh? It was the conception of the church and God wanted it pure from the start. Such impurity and satanic infiltration could have corrupted the entire church if this had gone unpunished. *"The Church has never been harmed or hindered by opposition from without; it has been perpetually harmed and hindered by perils from within."* (Morgan)

Married couples and all Christians alike, we're responsibility for keeping each other from sin and to refuse to participate in sin together.

Psalms 139:23-24 - *Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.*

James 4:8 - *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

II. (12-28) Power:

There is a connection between the purity and the power displayed here. God was blessing a pure church with spiritual power.

Mathew 5:8 - Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

We can wonder why at this time God chose to do these miracles through the hands of the apostles and not mainly through others. But God sovereignly chooses which hands will bring a miracle.

Even the shadow of Peter became a point of contact where people would release faith in Jesus as healer. It seems that people well understood what Peter said in Acts 3:12-16: That Jesus heals, even if He is doing His healing work through His apostles.

however, there was no power in Peter's shadow itself, but there was power when a person believed in Jesus to heal them.

Psalm 73:1 - Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart.

Proverbs 22:11 - He who loves purity of heart, and has grace on his lips, the king will be his friend.

Hebrews 1:14 - Angels are all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation. God sent His angel to unlocking and relocking the prison doors.

Psalm 147:5 - Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.

Psalm 89:13 - You have a mighty arm; strong is Your hand, and high is Your right hand.

Revelation 1:8 - "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

III. (29-42): Persistence, Perseverance, Endurance.

This was a testimony of great boldness, in contrast to the Sanhedrin who were more concerned about man's opinion than God's opinion.

This was also a testimony of persistence, perseverance and endurance. The apostles' response to the Sanhedrin is not a defense, nor is it a plea for mercy; it is a simple explanation of action, continuing to spread the Gospel and to follow Jesus even through the most difficult of times.

Gamaliel proposed the test of time, and that is an important test, Christianity would spread regardless of the suffering of those who spread and the attack of those who hate it.

Spurgeon spoke of this kind of bold heart: *"Now, I charge every Christian here to be speaking boldly in Christ's name, according as he has opportunity, and especially to take care of this tendency of our flesh to be afraid; which leads practically to endeavours to get off easily and to save ourselves from trouble. Fear not; be brave for Christ. Live bravely for him who died lovingly for you."*

Spurgeon also challenged the cowardly heart: *"Yet you are a coward. Yes, put it down in English: you are a coward. If anybody called you so you would turn red in the face; and perhaps you are not a coward in reference to any other subject. What a shameful thing it is that while you are bold about everything else you are cowardly about Jesus Christ. Brave for the world and cowardly towards Christ!"*

Romans 5:3-4 -...we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

2 Timothy 3:10 - But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,

2 Peter 1:5-6 - But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,