THE DANGEROUS MISTAKES OF ANANIAS & SAPPHIRA

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:
THE DANGEROUS MISTAKES OF ANANIAS & SAPPHIRA
Texts: Acts 5:1-11

Prayer

Lord God almighty, thank you for your grace and mercy to be present here tonight. Lord, we pray you should open the eyes of our understanding and help us to live by today's word.

Introduction

You're all welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I hope you all had a lovely day and I hope that we are all still on our journey to the kingdom of God, I pray that we will not miss it at last in Jesus name. Today's topic is a very sensitive one and I'd like everyone of us to listen with wrapped attention so that we can key into the power of the Lord Jesus even as these words transform us in Jesus Christ's name.

Bible Texts: Acts 5:1-11

[1]But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,
[2]And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.
[3]But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?
[4]Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.
[5]And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.
[6]And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.

[7]And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.
[8]And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.
[9]Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.
[10]Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.
[11]And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

Study
Reading through the story of Ananias and Sapphira, his wife, one would find out that it is a sobering one that is filled with true lessons, not only to the Church of God but also to Christian couples. We are going to look carefully into the lessons we can learn from what happened and not fall into similar mistakes. Ananias and Sapphira were early Christian couples who believed just like the others, but things later turned against them. The Word of God did not really tell us much about them, only for the fact that they too were part of the Church, but they made a grievous mistake that took their lives.

Their case serves as an example to us today, and we must be humble to learn from their mistakes, lest we find ourselves in such situations. Before this chapter of the Scripture, we read of how others in the church sold all they had and brought the proceeds and laid them before the apostles' feet, for they were all doing things in common. Joses, who was also called Barnabas, did the same. Having sold his land, he brought the money. **Acts 4:36-37 (KJV)** "And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed

Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet." This was an act of faith by Barnabas and also generosity, coupled with selflessness, just like how others did. The apostles had no issues with him, neither did it turn out badly for him, because he did what he did with a plain mind. This was probably what Ananias and his wife saw and wished to do the same. The Bible admonished that let every man give as he has proposed in his heart. The Word of God says no one should give in response to pressure or under compulsion, and the apostles never made it compulsory for the couple to give. They thought and made the decision by themselves, which is a good thing, but still God killed them for it. **2 Corinthians 9:7 (KJV)** "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

Let us consider their acts of giving.

a. They sold their possession, that is, land. The land did not belong to the church, neither was it for the apostles, but was for them.

b. They kept back a portion of the money for themselves. It was their money, and they had authority over it, of which Peter testified to. **Acts 5:4 (KJV)** "Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power?..."

c. They did what they did in agreement, so it was a joint decision. They both knew of it and accepted to do it. They gave in accordance with what they proposed in their hearts. All that they did was not wrong, as stated above. In fact, there is no sin in what they did, because it was their land and they were in one accord, but they made mistakes that we must highlight.

Let us consider their mistakes.

a. Their hearts were not right with God; that is, they presented their gifts with another intention. When Ananias brought the agreed part and dropped it at the apostles' feet, Peter stated that he allowed Satan to fill his heart and keep back part of the price of the land for himself. Let us examine this in two ways.

1. Ananias presented it to Peter as if to mean it was all the money he brought, in order to make it seem that he was a sacrificial giver. So his intention was not pure. He was presenting something that was not complete as if it was, which proved the state of his act. This was therefore seen as a lie before God.

2. It is possible that during those times it was a practice to bring the money in full and all knew about this, and this couple chose to do otherwise, which means if they had not brought anything at all in the first place, it would have been better. Whichever way, we can see that the state of a man's heart matters a lot before God, which is why we must guide our hearts, watch our motives, and screen our intentions. It is certain that if what happened during the time of Ananias and Sapphira were to be happening today, many of us would have long been dead, including pastors, because the atrocities that are committed today in the church are far more deadly than that of Ananias and Sapphira, who only told a lie with their hearts and lips.

b. Ananias lied in his heart, and Peter pointed this out to him. We must observe that Ananias did not say anything with his mouth, yet he was accused of lying to the Holy Spirit. **Acts 5:3 (KJV)** "But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?" God wants us to say the truth right from our hearts. This is because He does not see as men see. He is able to see what goes through our hearts, and because Ananias lied in his heart, the Lord killed him. **Psalm 15:2 (KJV)** "He that walketh uprightly,

and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart." We must always check if we are truthful from our hearts or if we are deceiving ourselves.

c. Sapphira lied with her mouth. This was a mistake made by his wife. She opened her mouth wide and gave false information. Peter asked her if that was the amount they sold the land for, and she said yes. She knew the truth, but because they had agreed earlier, she lied. And this led to her death. **Acts 5:8 (KJV)** "And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much."

How many lies have you told, even right inside the church and to ministers of God? Many do not count it as a big deal. This was how Sapphira never counted lying as something serious until she was killed for it. **Ephesians 4:25 (KJV)** "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another." Today, some ministers of God would even climb on the altar to tell lies, giving false testimonies and prophecies, and they do not count it as a big deal. Some members come to church and share false testimonies in order to draw attention to themselves. All these people are playing with fire.

d. They both made a sinful agreement. This is a big warning and lesson to all Christian couples. Whenever an agreement is to be made by the two of you, you must check if such an agreement pleases the Lord. Ananias and Sapphira never sat down to think about the agreement they were making, that it was contrary to the ways of God. Peter asked why they made such a bad agreement. **Acts 5:9 (KJV)** "Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out."

Assuming any of them had not made such an agreement with the other, they both would not have lost their lives. We never knew if they had children. If they had children, it means that their wrong decision would have rendered their children orphans. This is a big lesson. As couples, it is wrong to make agreements not to greet a neighbour because they offended one of you. Some have agreed to neglect their aged parents because these parents did not take care of them when they were young. They choose to place judgment in their own hands.

Today, it has gotten so bad that some couples now agree to speak ill of God's servants and even rebel against them. This set of couples do not know what they are doing. They are working on landmines and toying with a time bomb. What Ananias and Sapphira did was really an attack on God's nature, and God reacted immediately. God did not even forgive their ignorance and warn them, but pronounced instant judgment, killing them.
Now, how many times has He forgiven your ignorance and has been telling you to repent, but you choose not to? It is very dangerous for you.

Today, God does not pronounce instant judgment the way He used to, although He does it in some cases. This is because He has appointed a day when He would judge the whole world. If we choose to remain adamant in our sins, God may choose to visit us the way He visited Ananias and Sapphira. We must stop hiding under the umbrella of grace to commit sin. Ananias and Sapphira lived in the time of grace too, but they never received the grace of repentance. This is fearful. It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the Almighty God. **Hebrews 10:31 (KJV)** "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." These couples were used as an example to others, and fear came upon the church. **Acts 5:11 (KJV)** "And great fear came upon all the church, and

upon as many as heard these things."With the way many are living their lives now, they want to be used as examples to others because they have been given time to repent, yet they choose not to. You are here serving in the church, and you are fornicating around, and God has been sending warnings to you, but you refuse to repent. You are not wise at all. Are you waiting until when you would be used as an example in disgrace? Man of God, you are sleeping with your female members, and the Lord has been telling you to repent, but you remain adamant. The time of grace is ticking out for you already, what are you still waiting for?

Are you among those who seduce brothers on the street and in the house of God with your skimpy and tight dresses? The date of your shame is numbered since you have chosen not to repent but to continue in it. What intention and motive do you use in serving God? God is not someone who jests with men. God does not know comedy. Using the things of God for comedy will attract His judgment. It is time for the church to fear Him and sit up in righteousness and holiness before His wrath comes. There is still grace for you at this time.

It does not matter how many abortions you have committed, or the rate of sexual immorality, your level of lies and falsehood, nor your level of rebellion. God is ready to forgive you now before it turns sour for you. This is the day of repentance. Think deeply about other sinful things you do and do not count as serious, like Ananias and Sapphira, and repent immediately. Do not waste the opportunity of repentance. Do not wait for God's judgment, because you may lack the opportunity for repentance and lose your soul to hellfire for eternity.

May we not perish at last in Jesus Christ's name

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp **+2347067511039** and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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