

Truth and consequences.

Acts 5:1-16

God is aware of the details

1. Things in the church started off really well. (Acts 4)

- a. Growth, generosity, and joy were everywhere.
- b. Opposition seemed to strengthen them, not discourage them.
- c. The church was filled with good people doing good things.

2. Good things done in the wrong way can have tragic consequences. (Acts 5:1-11)

- a. Barnabas was noticed for his sacrificial generosity.
- b. Ananias and Sapphira were tempted to seek notoriety for their generosity, without making the same sacrifice.

“This was pious pretense, religious sham, simulated holiness, Christian fraud.”

Kent Hughes

"Those that boast of good works they never did, or promise good works they never do, or make the good works they do more or better than really they are, come under the guilt of Ananias's lie."

Matthew Henry

- c. Sin always separates.

3. Repent while you can. (Acts 8:18-24)

- a. We cannot presume tomorrow.
- b. Peter personally knew what it meant to change.

4. The church can thrive even through tragedy. (Acts 5:12-16)

- a. The apostles grew as the church grew.
- b. The power of the Holy Spirit was clear.

Application:

1. What are some of the consequences of sin that you have observed? In what ways have you seen sin separate?
2. Why do we like to try to look better than we actually are? In what areas are you tempted to do so?
3. What is God asking you to repent of? What areas are you particularly tempted to forget that God remembers the details?