

Notes - Book of Acts Study, Part 22 – Wednesday, July 8, 2020

Each of us has a past. The enemy wants to use it against us to discourage us, to disqualify us, to rob us of our hope. But God does the opposite...He takes the very things Satan uses to destroy us and uses them for good. Out of our greatest hurts can come our greatest ministry.

Acts 1:8

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 5:1-11

¹ Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. ² With his wife’s full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles’ feet.

³ Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴ Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God.”

⁵ When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. ⁶ Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

⁷ About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸ Peter asked her, “Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?”

“Yes,” she said, “that is the price.”

⁹ Peter said to her, “How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.”

¹⁰ At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹ Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

Psalm 24:1-2

¹ *The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;*
² *for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.*

Psalm 50:9-12

⁹ *I have no need of a bull from your stall
or of goats from your pens,*
¹⁰ *for every animal of the forest is mine,
and the cattle on a thousand hills.*
¹¹ *I know every bird in the mountains,
and the insects in the fields are mine.*
¹² *If I were hungry I would not tell you,
for the world is mine, and all that is in it.*

Anything God commands us to do is for our own good.

2 Corinthians 9:7

⁷ *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not
reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Acts 4:32-37

³² *All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their
possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.* ³³ *With great
power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And
God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all* ³⁴ *that there were no needy
persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold
them, brought the money from the sales* ³⁵ *and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was
distributed to anyone who had need.*

³⁶ *Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means
"son of encouragement"),* ³⁷ *sold a field he owned and brought the money and put
it at the apostles' feet.*

Ananias and Sapphira wanted in on the action.

This story is about deceit!

Joshua 6:15-19

¹⁵ On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. ¹⁶ The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city! ¹⁷ The city and all that is in it are to be devoted^[a] to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. ¹⁸ But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. ¹⁹ All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury."

Joshua 7:1

¹ But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the LORD's anger burned against Israel.

Deceit shows a lack of faith in God.

Nobody had asked Ananias and Sapphira to sell their property to begin with!

1 Corinthian 4:20

²⁰ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

"Their sin is imitated in many ways today. We can create or allow the impression that we are people of Bible reading or prayer when we are not. We can create or allow the impression that we have it all together when we do not. We can exaggerate our spiritual accomplishments or effectiveness to appear something we are not. It is too easy to be happy with the image of spirituality without the reality of spiritual life."