

# Truth & Consequences

## Introduction

- Continuing series,

**Tension: Some tough verses - death of Annanias & Saphira; how do we make sense as New Testament testimony? Tough consequences - don't want to talk about consequences, rather focus on grace and love...**

## Acts 4:32

- Jesus
  - John 17:21 "that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."
  - Heart a lot
    - Motivations

## Acts 4:33

- Power, dunamis, signs/wonders/miracles from 2:22
- Testify
  - Jesus' resurrection
  - Example of Resurrection in Your life? [Testimony can not be refuted]

## Acts 4:34-35

- "God's Grace so powerfully at work in them" 33b; yielding generosity
  - Example of camper and African dormitory
- Need/Needy among fellowship of believers
  - Frequency of Offering was based on Spirit prompting, not commandment or necessity

## Acts 4:36-37

- Son of encouragement
- Maybe one of the "70" Jesus sent out
- The new name which the Apostles gave him, literally, if we look to its Hebrew etymology, The son of prophecy, or, taking St. Luke's translation, The son of counsel, implies the possession of a special gift of persuasive utterance, in which the Apostles recognised the work of the Spirit. The Paraclete had endowed him with the gift of paraclesis, in the sense in which that word included counsel, comfort, admonition, application of divine truth to the spiritual necessities of men. -Elliocot's Commentary
  - Holy Spirit Gift of prophecy 1 Corinthians 14:3
- "The money"=all the money?

## Acts 5:1-2

- Look into what names mean
- 'Wife's full knowledge'= conspiracy
- "The rest"=not all
- Amount not mentioned, reason for this?, God's already deemed what's acceptable
  - Tithe vs. offering

## Acts 5:3-4

- Peter displaying the Holy Spirit gift of knowledge
- Contrast 4:32
  - Jesus and the heart
  - **Matthew 15: 18-19** "But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander."
- Lied to Holy Spirit
  - Satan, spiritual warfare
    - Consequences were Spiritual and supernatural
  - Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, **Matthew 12:31** "And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven."
    - Not going to pretend that I know this mystery, but 2 things
      1. Don't want to be close!
      2. If you are concerned about committing it you probably don't have anything to worry about
        - Positive "fear of the Lord"
- Was theirs and they could do whatever, choose to appear more spiritual by looking like 100% by lying to the Holy Spirit and trying to deceive
  - God knows the extent of our devotion and we can't deceive him

## Acts 5:5-6

- Can't be figurative because of the details of verse 6
- Unique event in the history of the Church
- Not so much about the act versus the plan to conspire
  - Voluntary versus Involuntary manslaughter

## Acts 5:7-9

- "Test the Spirit" - not invited to do; does so dishonestly
- Ironic in comparison to **Malachi 3:10** - Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

## Acts 5:10-11

- Consequences
  - Natural
  - Supernatural
  - Reap what you sow
- Immediately
- Tough verses, in the NT not OT, tough to swallow but can't make ourselves figurative it's literal, fortunately it is a unique event but does carry a universal message of consequences
- Purpose= teaching for the church- don't test the gravity of testing the Spirit
- Bring back positive of Barnabas and others from chapter 4, God's favor on them

## Response