

Chapter Five

Chapter 5

- In the opening 4 verses of the chapter, we see a continuation of the example of the people sharing their possessions but with a twist.
 - What was the sin of Hananiah and Shappirah?
 - Peter clearly states in verse 4 that they were under no specific requirement to give anything or any percentage of anything they sold.
 - How was their disingenuousness viewed by the Apostles?
 - Can you speculate as to their motive for having lied? Since their giving was done in public, could it have been pride?
 - According to Peter, to whom had they actually lied?

- Why was it important to maintain integrity in the arena of financial giving? Is that still important today?
- In verse 11, most modern translations have inserted the word “church” for the underlying Greek word “Ecclesia”. Throughout the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, known as the Septuagint, abbreviated as LXX which means 70, the consistent translation of the Hebrew word “kehal”, which means “assembly”, uses the Greek word “ecclesia”.
 - Why do you suppose the modern translations have switched to a different word to translate the same Greek word, ecclesia?
 - Since the actual word “church” is not really a “Bible word” but an inserted translation, what does the word “church” mean and where does it come from? You might want to search this out through various resources.
 - Why do you suppose the modern translators insist on making a separation between the believers in the Tanach (Old Testament period) and the believers in the Apostolic times (New Testament period) if the

underlying text does not support it?

- What is the difference between viewing the Bible through the lens of continuity or through contrast?
- In verses 12-16 we see the advancement of the kingdom of God.
 - Many people were afraid to openly and publicly join the Apostles but apparently there were quite a few who did so privately.
 - What drew the multitudes from the cities around Jerusalem to come to the temple?
- The High Priest and the sect of the Sadducees laid hands on the Apostles and put them in custody. What does verse 17 say was the reason behind their actions?
 - The early believers were teaching the resurrection of the Messiah. The doctrine of the resurrection was clearly taught by the Pharisees and expressly disclaimed by the Sadducees. It was doubly offensive to the Sadducees, as well as the High Priest, as they had been complicit in his death.
- According to verses 19 and 20, who opened the prison

doors and released the Apostles from custody and what were they told to do?

- Did they do what they were told to do?
- Meanwhile, the High Priest called the entire Sanhedrin together to deal with the matter.
 - When they discovered that the Apostles were not in custody but were back out preaching, what was their reaction according to verse 24?
 - The text records that the Apostles were brought in "without violence", meaning not by force. What was their fear, according to verse 26?
- The High Priest charged them in verse 28, "Didn't we strictly command you not to teach in this name? Behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and intend to bring this man's blood on us."
 - According to the opinion of the High Priest, how effective had the Apostles been in their ministry?
 - What was the fear of the High Priest?
- Peter's response in verse 29 was, "We must obey God

rather than men."

- Peter recognized that ultimate authority resides in God and not the traditions of men that stand in opposition to it.
- On the balance scale of truth, when the word of God overrides the traditions and theories of men, where do you stand?
- Like Peter and the early believers, are you willing to maintain your commitment to the truth of the word of God, even if it means rebelling against human religious authorities that stand in opposition to it?
- Peter's response was quick and to the point.
 - What was the focus and essence of his message in verses 30-32?
 - Is the gospel, the resurrection and the forgiveness of sins a ready message for you to share with those who ask you about your faith?
- The High Priest and the Sadducees were quite reactive to this message. Remember that the Sadducees did not believe in any resurrection but the Pharisees did.

- What does verse 33 say was their emotional reaction?
- The leader of the Pharisaic party was Gamaliel (Gamaliel) who is described in verse 14 as "a teacher of the Torah, honored by all the people."
 - This great scholar challenges the High Priest and the Sadducees with a remarkable thought. What is the essence of his argument in verses 38 and 39?
 - How incredible do you find it that this great scholar was advocating even for the possibility of affirming the message of the gospel?
- What did the council finally do in verse 40?
- What was the reaction from the Apostles as stated in verse 41?
- Did the Apostles heed the threat against them? What did they continue to do in verse 42?