

# Stop Playing Around with God!

Acts 5:1-11



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## Introduction

A shocking story interrupts all the wonderful accounts of the growth of the Gospel in Acts. While there was huge generosity in the Christian community, there were some who were pretending to be more godly than they really were. Still, nothing prepares us for the horrific account of Ananias and Sapphira dropping dead under God's judgement. How can we understand God's seeming harshness here, and what is Luke trying to teach us about the fear of the Lord?

1. God hates spiritual hypocrisy (vv. 1-4)

2. His judgements are real (vv. 5-10)

3. So, learn to fear the Lord (v. 11)

## Notes

## Questions to Ponder

1. How did you feel after you read the account of Ananias and Sapphira? Does God always act this way when there is sin in the church?
2. Read vv. 2-4. What exactly was the sin of Ananias? Why was that sin so serious at this stage of the church's growth?
3. Consider how Jesus responded to "tax collectors and sinners" compared to how He responded to Pharisees in His ministry. What does that teach us about spiritual hypocrisy?
4. How can we avoid hypocrisy in our own hearts? How can we be transparent as believers, in such a large church?
5. Why do you think God allowed young men to be exposed to such a radical act of judgement? What do you think they learned while carrying the bodies to their graves?
6. Proverbs 1:7 says "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." How would you define "the fear of the Lord", and why does it matter so much in our discipleship?