

July 31st, 2016
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: Acts Men
Sermon #10 Title: I Surrender Some
Sermon #10 Text: (Acts 5:1-11)

I heard a story about a very pious looking Sunday School teacher, who always stressing the importance of looking like a Christian, asked his students one Sunday, - “why do people outside of this church call me a Christian?”- One well-meaning little boy said, “Probably because they don’t know you very well.”

Someone asked Vance Havner once who was coming from another denomination if he would help them learn how to be a good Baptist. They had been a Presbyterian, a Quaker, and tried to be a Methodist, but were never satisfied. – Havner replied, “I might as well . . . changing labels on an empty bottle never made a difference anyway.”

- For far too many people it is more important to Look like we ought to look, than to be what we ought to be, and as we walk through the events of our chapter today, we are going to see just how bad the Lord despises people who “pretend to be what they do not intend to be.”

It cannot be lost on us that the very first Sin that God deals with publicly and permanently in the early church, is not the sin of doctrinal error, it was not the sin idolatry, nor was it any

of the sins of immorality – but rather it was the sin that is behind nearly every sin, and it is the sin that the Lord hates above all sin, it was the sin of “Hypocritical Pride.”

- If there is anything the Lord hates worse than Hypocrisy, and it is the Pride that produces it.

There is perhaps no sin greater than the sin of pride. – All other sins, are perverted efforts to satisfy some kind of need.

- Adultery – some kind of perverted desire for love
- Thievery – some kind of perverted effort to supply needs, real or imagined.
- Idolatry – some kind of perverted effort to satisfy an innate and sometimes unconscious need to worship.
- Drunkenness and Debauchery – some kind of perverted effort to elevate stress and find a sense of happiness.
- Pride says – “I don’t have any needs. I am all right, I am self-sufficient, and I am righteous enough, and I am a worthy example of all a person should be”
- Now know this – God doesn’t just hate Pride, He hates the Look of Pride!
 - Proverbs 6:16 – 17 – “These six things doth the Lord hate, and seven is an abomination to him, A Proud Look, and a Lying Tongue”
- Now God doesn’t just hate Pride, He hates the Appearance of Pride.
 - But now do you know what you have, when you put together a Proud Look and a Lying Tongue? – When both of those are in the same person at the same time,

you have a bona fide, card carrying Hypocrite, the kind of which the Lord removed from His first church in a very public and permanent way.

- Religious Hypocrisy is public enemy number one in the New Testament Church. The Bible warns us to Watch For It, Run From It, and Shun those eat up with it, at all costs!

- Now some may say, Preacher, we shouldn't shun anyone? – That's not what the Bible says . . .

2 Timothy 3:5 – “Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof, from such, turn away.”

Paul described to Timothy one form of the religious hypocrite in 1st Timothy 6:3-5 – saying, “If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.”

Without question, and without doubt, Religious Hypocrisy is by far one of the most single most warned of sins in the New Testament, it is by far one of the most dangerous to exist, the most difficult to detect, and the most detested by the Holy Spirit of God.

Matthew 12:28 – “Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”

- It was **the** fundamental sin that Jesus focused in on when dealing with the religious leaders of His day

Jesus addressed it in the early church, Paul addressed it in the ending church in 1st Timothy 4 speaking of the professing Christianity in the last days, said, “Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;”

All of that being said, in Chapter 5 today we get God's original reaction to the original example of Religious Hypocrisy in these two people Ananias and Sapphira.

Background – At the end of chapter 4, the new church with new hearts were bonding together, and circling the wagons for protection from the outside world.

- 4:32 – “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul; neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his how, but they had all things in common.”

- Different people no doubt suffered different costs when they came to Christ. – Some lost their jobs, some were shunned from their families, some were put out of their trade unions and work guilds.

- But not everyone – So they began benevolence, generosity, and great care one for another.

It was a wonderful time of unity, love, and respect for one another.

- 4:34-37 – People were selling their possessions and taking the money to the Apostles to administer for the needs of the people.

- one man in particular was noted for a particular sale and donation – named Barnabas.

It was here that the fall of Ananias and Sapphira came about.

- Now note some things important to understand . . .

#1 – There was no command or expectation laid upon anyone to go and sell their properties and give all of the sale price to the apostles – it was strictly voluntary.

#2 – There was no command to give 100% of anything to anyone at any time.

- The sin of these saints, was not that they kept part of a profit.

- The Sin of these saints, was that They Presented themselves as Giving All, but only giving some.

I. The Highway to Hypocrisy

*Note – First of all, what is Hypocrisy?

- Never get the idea that Hypocrisy is just saying one thing and doing another.

- I know there are people here this morning that are weighted down with the fear and sense of guilt that they are hypocrites because they have failures and sins in their past. – None of that is hypocrisy.

- The fact is that if you can't actually worry about being a hypocrite and be one at the same time.

- The word means Play-Actor, and a hypocrite is someone who never actually intends to be, what they pretend to be.

- In the basement of their hearts they have no real intention of giving themselves to the Lord. (Now the best intentions do often fail, but the hypocrite has no real intentions at all.)

*Note – In verse 3, Peter essentially asked the question, “Why has this happened?” “How is it that you have allowed yourself to be influenced by the devil himself?”

- All lying, all temptation to lie, all consideration to lie, is the sum and substance of the nature of Lucifer himself.

- As we examine Ananias and Sapphira, there are three mile-markers on the Highway to Hypocrisy.

A. A Sinful Desire For Glory

1.) back in 4:36, a man named Joses came and gave everything that he had sold on a particular piece of property to the disciples, and THEY made note of it.

a.) “They surnamed him Barnabas which means son of consolation.”

Joses was the real deal, and his actions moved the apostles with joy to recognize Joses as an example. – It was made known by the Apostles that this man was a wonderful man.

- It is here that the desire for admiration from the people was born in the hearts of this couple.

2.) Paul said in Ephesians 4:7 – “Neither give place to the devil.” – The desire for glory in the heart of a man is a furnished suite for Satan.

a.) One of Satan's primary approaches is to tickle and tempt the “pride of life.”

b.) Twice in the book of Isaiah the Lord said, “I will not give my glory to another”

Now write this down – “The Lord will glorify, who He wants to glorify, when He wants to glorify – but no man has no place, privilege, or standing to want glory.”

Listen to Psalm 37:5-6 – “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.”

- The first step on the highway to hypocrisy is the sinful desire for glory.

B. A Satanic Delight To Goad

1.) “Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Spirit.”

a.) the short answer is simple – Ananias and Sapphira were willing for him to.

They already had deception in their hearts – Note that Peter didn’t blame the devil for what they did, he blamed them for letting the devil fill them with what they did.

b.) A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue. – Proverbs 17:4

c.) Listen to what James said in James 4:7 – “Submit yourselves therefore to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

Satan filled their hearts because he wasn’t afraid of them. – When you are willing to be tempted, Satan will oblige! – Satan is always willing to contribute to what you are willing to consider!

c.) Satan will always be Satan – he will act like Satan, he will work like Satan, he will think and function like Satan.

- He wants men to sin, and sinners to die, and any man that is willing to indulge, he is willing to embrace.

Listen to what Jesus said in John 8:44 – “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

The devil can never make you do anything – but he will gladly help you do anything you are willing to do.

C. A Sinister Design To Gain

1.) They lied to gain . . . Deception was acceptable to them.

a.) Admiration without Honesty

b.) Credit without Sacrifice

They were trying to steal a reputation without earning it – Improve Standing in the eyes of people.

Financial exploitation –

- They saw an opportunity to have the best of both worlds – We can gain standing and recognition, while at the same time enjoy a profit – there is no harm in letting people think what they want to think!

By the time Ananias made it to the offering plate that day he was in High Gear Hypocrisy – Pretending to do, what he never intended to do!

II. The Straightway to Sorrow

Hypocrisy will always bring unintended consequences. – No one sets out to find sorrow, but write it down big plain and straight that Sorrow will always find Hypocrisy.

A. It Stains our Testimony

- 1.) Their desire to move up brought them down.

What do we know about Ananias and Sapphira? – One they had made public profession of Jesus Christ, two they had followed the Lord in Baptism, and three they were willing to identify themselves with an unwanted group of people in Jerusalem.

- a.) We don't know much about them before this, except that at one point they were spiritually strong enough to publicly join the ranks. – Beyond that, we have no idea about their previous service.

But since then, they have forever been known as the people who lied to the Holy Spirit of God on purpose.

B. It Stumbles our Family

- 1.) What was born in Ananias blossomed in Sapphira. – Ananias the Spiritual Leader of the home led his wife into his deception, and she willingly went.
 - a.) This would not be the last time that a man would drag his loving wife into his sin – nor was it the last time a wife might drag her loving husband down with hers.

No husband can sin without affecting his wife, and no wife can sin without affecting her husband.

- He may have been the head, but she could have been the conscience.

C. It Stirs Up our Penalty – “It gives God good reason to take our lives.” – Why would he let a lie, continue to live in His name.

III. The Right Way To Worship

A. In Complete Honesty – vs 4 “was it not in thine own power” – In other words, the truth was yours to say, but you didn't say it!

- 1.) Thou desirest truth in the inward parts –
Psalm 51:6

No man has ever successfully lied to God about anything! Now here is the warning for us – God does not take lightly lying to Him in worship –

Someone appropriately compiled this short list –

1. We sing “Sweet Hour of Prayer” and are content with 5–10 minutes a day.
2. We sing “Onward Christian Soldiers” and wait to be drafted into His service.
3. We sing “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” and don't use the one we have.
4. We sing “There Shall be Showers of Blessing” but do not come when it rains.
5. We sing “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” and let the least little offense sever it.
6. We sing “Serve the Lord With Gladness” and gripe about all we have to do.
7. We sing “I Love to Tell the Story” and never mention it at all.

8. We sing “We’re Marching to Zion” but fail to march to worship or church school.

9. We sing “Cast Thy Burden on the Lord” and worry ourselves into a nervous breakdown.

B. In Total Humility – vs 9 – “how is it that ye have agreed to tempt the Spirit of the Lord?”

(why on earth would you think that you had standing in which you could test the Lord this way?)

Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 – “Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.”

Conclusion: - You need to note the effect that this had on everyone else.

- vs 5 – “And great fear came on all them that heard these things.”

- vs 11 – “And great fear came upon all the church.”

- vs 13 – “And of the rest durst no man join himself to them.”

- The Lord laid down the line so clear, so sure, so plain that He has no problem laying down the death penalty for hypocrisy – Make sure, you are sure before come and worship me.

What was their hypocrisy – “They pretended to give all, while they only surrendered some.”

