

Ananias and Sapphira

Acts 4:32 – 5:11

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The apostles were powerfully proclaiming the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. The believers felt they had no right to own anything, so they were all sharing their possessions in common. From time to time one of them would sell a piece of land or a house and donate the money to be distributed among those in need.

One such person was Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira. They sold some land and set some of the money aside for themselves. Ananias took the remainder of the money and gave it to the apostles; but he represented it as the full amount.

Peter said, "Ananias, why have lied to the Holy Spirit? The land was yours to sell or not as you pleased, so the money was yours to do with as you pleased. You could have kept some of it for yourselves without any question at all. What made you think of doing such a thing? You haven't lied to us; you have lied to God."

Ananias dropped dead on the spot. Some young men came in, wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.

A few hours later Sapphira came in, not knowing what had happened to her husband. Peter asked, "Is this the price you received for your land?"

"Yes," she replied, "that's right."

Peter said, "Why have the two of you conspired to test the Spirit of the Lord? The men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out too."

She immediately fell at his feet and died. The young men came in, carried her out, and buried her beside her husband. Great fear seized everyone who heard what had happened.