

The Book of Acts, part 14 – Fear God and Nothing Else – Acts 5:1-11

Dale Sutherland – Associate Senior Pastor

Acts 5:1-11

Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife's full knowledge, he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet. Then Peter said, 'Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God.' When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. A great fear seized all who heard what had happened. Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him. About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter asked her, 'Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?' 'Yes,' she said, 'That is the price.' Peter said to her, 'How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.' At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events."

Fear God and nothing else.

The Problem – Acts 5:1-4

The Punishment – Acts 5:5-10

Romans 11:33

"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out."

The Promise – Acts 5:11

Acts 5:11

"Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events."

Proverbs 14:27

"The fear of God is the fountain of life, keeping us from the snares of death."

John MacArthur

"To fear God is to live in the reality of His holiness, His sovereignty, and His judgment of sin. It is to love God, respect Him, reverence Him, adore Him, hold Him in awe, and worship Him. And that can only be done by loving His Son the Savior."

Acts 9:31

"Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord."

1 Peter 1:17

"Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear."

1 Peter 2:17

“Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.”

Psalms 111:10

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom . . .”

Proverbs 23:17

“ . . . live in the fear of the Lord always.”

Proverbs 24:21

“Fear the Lord and the king . . .”

#1 - Don't fear men

Matthew 10:28

“Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

John Piper

“That leaves the soul untouched and happy in God forever and ever.”

Psalms 56:4

“In God, whose word I praise, in God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me?”

Matt 22:16b

“ . . . You aren't swayed by men . . .”

Galatians 1:10b

“ . . . If I am still trying to please men then I would not be a servant of God.”

1 Thessalonians 2:4b

“ . . . We are not trying to please men but God, who tests the hearts.”

#2 - Don't fear the future

Matthew 10:29-31

“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”

Psalms 112:7

“They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the LORD.”

Charles H. Spurgeon

“He knows too that God is always wise, and, knowing this, he is confident that there can be no accidents, no mistakes; that nothing can occur which ought not to arise.”

Hymn – Does Jesus Care?

(Verse 1)

Does Jesus care when my heart is pained
Too deeply for mirth or song,
As the burdens press, and the cares distress,
And the way grows weary and long?

(Chorus)

Oh, yes, He cares, I know He cares,
His heart is touched with my grief;
When the days are weary, the long nights dreary,
I know my Savior cares.

(Verse 3)

Does Jesus care when I've tried and failed
To resist some temptation strong;
When for my deep grief there is no relief,
Though my tears flow all the night long?