Acts 5:1–16 ESVUK

[1] But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, [2] and with
his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a
part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. [3] But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled
your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of
the land? [4] While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold,
was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart?
You have not lied to men but to God." [5] When Ananias heard these words, he fell down
and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. [6] The young men
rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

[7] After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had
happened. [8] And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much."
And she said, "Yes, for so much." [9] But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed
together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your
husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." [10] Immediately she fell down at
his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and
they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. [11] And great fear came upon
the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

[12] Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of
the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. [13] None of the rest dared
join them, but the people held them in high esteem. [14] And more than ever believers
were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, [15] so that they even
carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came
by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. [16] The people also gathered from the
towns round Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and
they were all healed.

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Is Christianity good for the world?

God's presence in a changed world
Acts 5:1–16

Introduction

1. Hypocrisy in the church of God faces God's judgement

2. The church of God is his dwelling place and God's precious possession

Numbers 20:10 *Then Moses and Aaron gathered (churched) the assembly together before the Rock*
Deuteronomy 4:10 *…gather (church) the people to me that I may let them hear my word*
Matthew 16:18 *… on this Rock (of Peter's teaching) I will build my church*
1 Corinthians 3:16 *…do you not know that you (plural) are God's Temple and God's Spirit dwells within you*
1 Timothy 3:15 *…the household of God, the church of the living God, pillar, and buttress of the truth*
1 Peter 2:4 *…as you come to him (Jesus), a living stone … you yourselves, like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house…*

3. Hypocrisy in the church of God will be judged by God

Conclusion

Questions for discussion and reflection:

- How do these verses change the way you think about 'coming to church'?
- Are you aware of any hypocrisy that needs rooting out in your own life?
- How do these verses both challenge and reassure us?

Next week: God's witnesses in a changed world. William Taylor speaking on Acts 5:17–32.