

MESSAGE APPLICATION GUIDE

Pastor Jeff Bucknam

Acts 5:1-11

1. When we read the story of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-11, what are the thoughts and questions that come to mind about God or Christian faith? How would skeptics find this passage troubling?

2. Do you agree or disagree that our concern about our money and our reputations poses a risk to our faith? Why? What does our society promise will be the outcome of more and more money? In what ways are they right? In what ways are they wrong? How does God call us to handle our money?

3. What is the craziest thing you have heard someone do to protect or further their reputation? What are some ways we protect our reputations? How does the Gospel address our desire to boast in our reputations?

4. Satan shows up in Acts 5:3. According to Peter, what is Satan's role in the sin of Ananias? How does Satan influence Christians today? Does Satan do similar work in every part of the world or is how he acts in African villages different than how he acts in cities like Chicago? Explain.

5. How much of a problem is hidden sin in the lives of Christian people? What leads people to confess it? Why do we struggle so much with shedding light on it in our own lives? How would you recommend that someone deal with their hidden sin? Why?

6. Do you agree or disagree with the statement, "What you do to the bride, you do to the groom" when it comes to how sin against Christ's church is equated with sin against Christ? Why? What are some clear ways people sin against Christ's church? Why do we tend to take sin against Christ's church lightly?

7. Does God have a right to judge Ananias and Sapphira through Peter? If so, why does God choose not to immediately judge some who have acted similarly to them? Is this even something that would happen today? Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-32. Why have some of the people in this passage died (11:30)?
