

LESSON 4

SIN IN THE CHURCH

Read Acts 5 & Study Note: Judgment

FACT QUESTIONS

1. In the previous chapter we learned that Barnabas “sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.” How do you think that influenced Ananias and Sapphira to do what they did?
2. Was it wrong for them to hold back part of the money? What was their sin? What did Peter say they had done wrong? Where else in the New Testament do we read that Satan filled someone’s heart to do wrong (**Refer to John 13**)?
3. What was Ananias’ punishment from God for this grave sin? Do you think the punishment for this couple was too harsh? Why or why not?

LESSON QUESTIONS

4. What was the reception from the apostles and what do you think Sapphira was expecting when she came in three hours later?
5. How did the healing ministry of Jesus continue through His apostles? Why do you think that they were given this special ability?
6. The apostles were arrested and jailed. How did they escape and how did the Sanhedrin respond when they heard they were no longer in the jail? What did Gamaliel say to mitigate their reaction?

HEART APPLICATION QUESTIONS

7. The authorities acted out of fear of the people (5:26). The believers chose to obey God rather than man (5:29). How can you recognize when someone is acting out of fear of man instead of fear of God?

8. The Sadducees were filled with jealousy which caused them to do evil. How is their jealousy different than God's, when we are told that our God is a Jealous God? (Exodus 20:5 - part of the Ten Commandments) How would you know when you are struggling with sinful jealousy?

9. What did the Apostles do after they had been flogged and ordered not to speak in the name of Jesus? Were you surprised by their mindset? Why or why not?

Memory Verse - Acts 5:41

"Then they left the presence of the council rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name."

LESSON 4

STUDY NOTES

JUDGMENT

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light...” (John 3:16-19).

The Judgment of the Believer's Sins

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life” (John 5:24).

This is a profound verse. Mark it in your Bible. Memorize it.

Jesus Christ has declared that everyone who believes on Him for salvation is no longer under the judgment (condemnation) of God for sin but has passed from spiritual death to spiritual life. Jesus Christ was judged in the believer's place. He bore our condemnation, the judgment we deserve, on His body on the Cross (1 Peter 2:24).

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1).

The Judgment of the Believer's Works

Although the believer is no longer condemned, their works will be judged for their impact on God's kingdom and His people. We are not saved by works (Ephesians 2:8-9) but saved to do good works to the glory of God.

“For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10).

For those who have believed on Jesus Christ for salvation, there is still a judgment to be faced, but it is NOT a punitive judgment, but an “evaluative” judgment where your works will be assessed and rewarded by Jesus Christ.

Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:10 that we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, “so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body; whether good or evil.”

The judgment seat of Christ is also called the “Bema seat” where all believers will give an account of their works before God. It is a humbling thought to know that some day the believer will face all of their works - “good or bad.”

The Apostle Paul explained how the believer’s works will be evaluated:

“For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw - each one’s work will become manifest for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire” (1 Corinthians 3:11-15).

Some will suffer loss, which is loss of rewards, but no one will lose their salvation.

The Judgment of the Wicked

The great white throne judgment will follow the thousand-year reign of Christ.

“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it. Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:11-15).

At the great white throne judgment, there will be no acquittal, no higher court to which the lost may appeal. The wicked dead will be lost, lost forever, separated from God.

LESSON 4: MESSAGE NOTES

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PRAISES & PRAYER REQUESTS