THE SINS OF ANNIAS AND SAPPHIRA

ACTS 5:1-11

Introduction:

A. The Church of Jerusalem Has Enjoyed the Fruit of Unity.
   1) "one heart and one soul"
   2) "great grace and great power"

B. They have benefited from sharing
   1) Some sold their possessions
   2) They laid them at the Apostle's feet
   3) A good example, Joses, Barnabas

C. We now view a bad example
   1) Some never seem to understand
   2) They do many things for self
   3) Often have Pastoral encouragement

I. The Partners In Sin      5:1-2

A. The act itself      Vs. 1
   1) Man and wife often agree on sin
   2) "Sold a Possession", landed property
   3) Was probably not good property!

B. The sin      Vs. 2
   1) "kept back" = nosphizomai = "to embezzle", "to secretly take a part
      of a larger quantity which had been given to one as a trust."
   2) "being privy" = suneidues = "to share knowledge"
   3) "certain part" = meros = "part of a whole"
   4) "and brought only part of it"
   5) "laid it at the Apostle's feet"

C. The warning of Jesus
   1) Hypocrisy      Luke 12:1
   2) covetousness    Luke 12:15
II. The Silliness of Their Sin  3-4

A. Annias listened to Satan
   1) "Satan has taken possession of your heart"
   2) "from the heart", a man lies because he is a liar and not because he tells lies.

B. Annias attempted the impossible
   1) "lie to the Holy Spirit"
   2) God knows our heart
   3) "keep back part of the price"

C. The irony of the sin
   1) "while it remained, was it not thine own?"
   2) "after it was sold, was it not in thine own power?"
   3) "conceived" = tithemi = "to set or place for one's self", "to fix as in the mind"
   4) This was in his heart, He was not with one heart and with one soul
   5) James 1:12-15
   6) When one lies to the church, one lies to God. When we lie to a man of God, we lie to God.

D. The seriousness of the sin  Vs. 5
   1) "fell down and gave up the Ghost"
   2) exepsuxen = "to breathe out", "to expire" a term used by medical writers.
   3) Those who heard feared, "great fear"

E. The end of all sin  Vs. 6
   1) "and sin when it hath finished"
   2) The end of sin is the cemetery
   3) The younger men wrapped him in a shroud and took him and buried him
III. Three Hours After......Vs. 7-10

A. Sapphira comes to glory in the gift       Vs. 7
   1) She didn't know          Vs. 7
   2) I don't know why!

B. To tell the truth       Vs. 8
   1) Did you?
   2) "yes we did", she replied smiling
   3) expected a compliment

C. Be sure your sin will find you out!       Vs. 9
   1) "agreed" = sumpsoneo = "symphony", "to speak a thing together with another"
   2) They tempted God
   3) the return of the pallbearers

D. The Death of Sapphira
   1) She immediately dropped dead
   2) They buried them side by side

IV. The Benefits of a Double Funeral       Vs. 11

A. "And great fear came upon all the church"
   1) "great" = megas =
   2) "fear" = phobas = terror, fright

B. "and upon as many as heard these things"
   1) When the church is right, the world fears it.
   2) Lost people fear a true church!

C. Vs. 13
   1) Join = kollao = "to glue together", "to adhere", "to cleave to", "become one's servant"