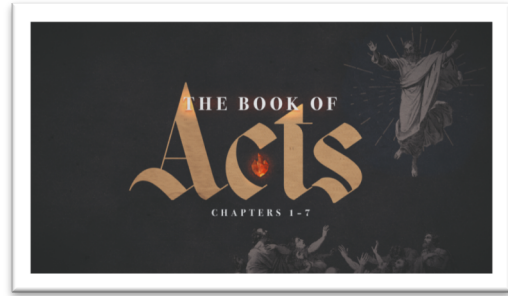


GREAT FEAR

ACTS 5:1-11 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD
MARCH 7, 2020



Having “great fear” of God means I don’t trivialize sin, I don’t think I’m immune to discipline, I don’t taint the church, and I don’t test him.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Does this passage shock or offend you in some way? Why did Ananias and Sapphira lose their lives so dramatically?

Have you given enough thought to the idea that, because of sin, God can demand your life from you at any moment?

Even though Ananias and Sapphira were a married couple, God judged them independently. Sapphira didn’t die when Ananias was judged. Peter gave her an opportunity to confess, but she continued the lie. Do you think God allows for one spouse to be aware of the other’s sin without being guilty of it? What then does “agreement” have to do with sharing guilt for “testing the Lord”?

Do you feel pressure to make it look like you are giving significantly to the church?
In what ways can modern believers feel tempted to exaggerate or lie about the amount of sacrifice related to giving?

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets,

that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”
(Matthew 6:1-4)

There are similarities between the account of Cain and Able in Genesis 4:3-7 and the accounts about Ananias and Barnabas. How do we know from Cain's life that God is able to discipline without causing death? How does Ananias and Sapphira's judgement reveal more mercy than Cain's?

Have you used any of these excuses to lie to yourself about sin? Why do we tell ourselves these lies rather than repent?

My sin is not that bad
Everyone has sin
I only sin at work
That's not what the Bible means
No one knows
I do this because of what happened to me
I'm not as bad as him/her

How can a habit of making these excuses (above) lead people to stop fearing judgment for their sin?

Do you ever if your sin taints the church? How could you find out how much your sin affects other believers around you before an authority at the church has to confront you over it?

After wrestling with this passage and message, is there a particular issue that you want be honest with the church about? How can other people help you repent?