

When Ananias and Sapphire Refused to Put God First

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AUDIO

Putting God first can be difficult. **What can we learn from Ananias and Sapphira**, who refused to put God first?

Ananias and Sapphira intended to put God first. They believed in Jesus and were likely among those who had been baptized with the Holy Spirit.

The problem with Ananias and Sapphira was that they found it difficult to keep their promises to God. They vowed to give a hundred percent of the funds they received for the sale of their land. This is a generous offer, above and beyond what God had asked.

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Maybe, at first, they felt good to make this promise. Perhaps it was the peer pressure of watching many other people sell their possessions and give it all to the apostles.

However, when Ananias and Sapphira had the money in their hands, greed set in. They started to imagine all the things they could buy with that money. And, what if they would lack resources for an emergency? They did not trust in God as their provider and Sustainer. They trusted in money instead, making an idol from it!

So, they decided to tell the church that they only received a lesser amount than expected. By the end of that day, both Ananias and Sapphira were dead and buried!!!

The question then comes: why did God treat them so harshly? Was money a sufficient reason to bring their lives to an end?

VÍDEO

Images related to text and animation.

AUDIO

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You know, God is profoundly serious about honesty and integrity in all areas of life. This is as true in our tithes and offerings today as it was for Ananias and Sapphira. Even though God expects us to bring Him regular offerings to His cause, besides the tithe (Mal. 3:8), He does not establish which proportion of our income or increase should be regularly dedicated to Him. It can be equal, less, or more than the tithe. We are totally free to decide about that percentage, but God expects us to keep that promise once we make it. Others may not know what percentage we have promised or how much our income is, but God knows it all.

However, don't allow the fear of failure to prevent you from experiencing the spiritual blessings that come from making your pledges to the Lord. Making vows related to what He expects us to do will strengthen our desire to accomplish His will. It will also lead us to discover where to find the strength to thrive: "Without Me you can do nothing," said Jesus (John 15:5).

In some cases, not vowing, not firmly deciding to do what is expected by God, may lead us to waver between right and wrong, opening a breach for God's enemy, with severe consequences.

But what if we have failed in the past? There is always hope: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). If we ask Him, He will give us the power to fulfill our promises, and it may start happening today!

Images related to text and animation.

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Ananias and Sapphira refused to put God first. The consequences were terrible for them and the people around them. God's love compels us to put His Kingdom first, while Ananias and Sapphira's example is a warning for us today. As we return our tithes and Promise, we are challenged to put God first.

Text animation.