

Acts – 7/19/26

Read

Read Acts 5:1-11 and consider what lessons the Holy Spirit intends us to learn.

Examine

- Compare this passage with the previous one (4:32-37). What was the problem with Ananias and Sapphira's actions? How does Peter's response to Ananias in v.4 help interpret the radical generosity in the previous passage?
- Peter's words to Ananias (v.3-4) conflate lying to the Holy Spirit with lying to God. How does this passage aid in understanding the Trinity? Why is significant that the Holy Spirit is God?
- What does v.3 imply about Satan's role in sin and its effects within the church?
- Plenty of people have lied in the last 2,000 years, but people don't often drop dead as in this text. What does this story teach about God's holiness? What could be the reason for such severe, immediate judgment in this context?

Apply

- What might be some contemporary examples of acting like Ananias and Sapphira within the church?
- How does this text inform our fear of the Lord and concern for God's holiness today? What should be our posture toward God?
- Ananias and Sapphira were more focused on their glory than God's. How can we recognize this kind of mentality within ourselves? What should we do?
- How are lying and hypocrisy destructive to Christians and the church? How should we navigate these within our community? What principles might we draw from this text about how the church should hold its members accountable?
- How does this story guard against a modern tendency to think the early church was essentially perfect? How should we view the early church?

Pray

Take time to praise God for who He is, confess sins, and/or make requests based on this passage.