

Ananias and Sapphira: When Sin Mixes In

Joshua 7:1, 11 *But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the LORD burned against the people of Israel... "Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen and lied and put them among their own belongings."*

1 Peter 4:17 *it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God.*

1 Corinthians 5:5 *to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.*

1 Cor. 11:28-30 *Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰ That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.*

Questions for Grace Group Discussion

Read Hebrews 12:5-11.

What does Hebrews 12:5-11 say that God does for all of His true children?

How many different words in the passage can you find which describe what God does, or what that experience is like for God's children?

Is it possible that Ananias and Sapphira were experiencing this from the Lord?

Read Hebrews 12:15-16

Hebrews 12:15 talks about a "root of bitterness." Though we often speak about bitterness as an attitude that can take root in our hearts (which is true), that may not be the meaning here in Hebrews 12. The "root" here in Hebrews 12 might actually be a person whose damaging influence spreads to other people, like a bitter vegetable could make an entire pot of soup bitter. For the possible background of the phrase "root of bitterness," read Deuteronomy 29:16-21.

Though Deuteronomy 29:16-21 is about Israelites under the Old Covenant, can you see any parallels between the root/person described there and Ananias and Sapphira?

What one truth was most meaningful for you from this morning's message?

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