

# Studies in the Acts of the Apostles

## NT Survey Lesson 55--Acts 5

**Introduction:** The conflict that led to Jesus' death continues in his apostles. The enemies of truth would not accept the many evidences given them that the apostles were truthful witnesses of Jesus. Rather than repent, they hardened their hearts against the truth. Nonetheless, the response among the people was wonderful. Thousands continued to be added to the Lord's church. However, those who came had to learn through the death of Ananias and Sapphira that discipleship is a call to holiness.

### **Ananias and Sapphira--Ac. 5:1-11**

1. What does it seem prompted Ananias to sell his property? Why do you think Ananias lied about the amount being contributed?
2. What may we infer by the statements made by Peter: "...you have lied to the Holy Spirit" & "you have lied unto God"?
3. What might we learn about the difference between the funds of an individual and the funds of a local church from Peter's remarks?
4. What happened to Ananias? Was this penalty too severe? Why or why not?
5. Had Sapphira agreed to lie along with her husband? What was her fate?
6. How was the church itself affected by this episode?

### **Another progress report--Ac. 5:12-16**

1. Describe the miracle working power of the apostles. Does this call to mind any promises that Christ had made to his disciples?
2. Why do you suppose the people kept aloof from the apostles?
3. How does Luke describe the growth of the church at this point?
4. Is there evidence that believers were now being made from the surrounding area as well? Is this the beginning of churches in Judea, as well as in Jerusalem?

**The apostles are again imprisoned and release with a flogging--  
Ac. 5:17-42**

1. What prompted the temple rulers to once again put the apostles in jail? What did an angel of God do? What should this miracle have caused the rulers to do? What did they do instead?
2. What did the high priest say the apostles had done?
3. How did Peter respond to the implication that the apostles must quit speaking about Jesus? What did he say about Jesus?
5. What did the Council intend to do? Who persuaded the Council to let the apostles go? Upon what basis did he urge this?
6. What does it mean to be "beaten" or "flogged"?
7. How did the apostles respond to their mistreatment? What did they continue to do? In what places did they teach?