

Signs & Wonders
Acts 5:1-16

Getting Started

- ❖ Based on all we've studied so far, how would you describe the early church up to this point in its existence?

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. If Satan can't destroy a church from the outside, he will seek to destroy it from within. (v.1-3)
2. (Takeaway Truth) Sin, especially premeditated hypocrisy and spiritual deception, is not a trifling matter to God. (v.4b-10)
 - A. What did A & S do to provoke this kind of response from God?
 - B. Why did God respond so severely to the sin of A & S?
 - C. It shouldn't surprise us that God would respond to blatant hypocrisy in a strong manner.
 - D. Why does God not strike all of us dead for our hypocrisy?

Digging Deeper

- ❖ Revisit the sermon text and the sermon and answer the following:
 - The context of this story is twofold. At the granular level, the final comments in chapter 4 where Barnabas sold property and brought the proceeds of the sale to the Apostles set up this event with Ananias and Sapphira. But in the broader level, we are in a section where you see Satanic activity where he is opposing the Spirit-filled Church. Considering the previous chapters, this passage and the first 7 verses of chapter 6, brainstorm ways Satan can work to oppose a church.
 - What are some ways Satan can attack a church from within? How does Satan attack us as individual Believers from "within"?
 - Do you believe it is easier to withstand external forceful attacks that Satan instigates or internal ones?
 - Why do you think their offenses were so grave as to merit death from God?
 - How is hypocrisy different from the normal sin that comes from being human?
 - How would you answer someone who charges God with being overly harsh in this incident? Where in this passage do you see God's grace?
 - This event also has ramifications and implications for church discipline. Have you seen church discipline enacted in the churches you've attended before Covenant?
 - What was the popular response to the punishment of Ananias and Sapphira? How is this different from the response after Pentecost in Acts 2:43?
 - Are there any lessons here for how personal sin can affect the overall Body of Christ?
 - For Further Study: Read these passages in Matthew, 6:16-18, 15:7-9, 23:27-28, and from them compile a description, or a "portrait" of a hypocrite.

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Apply It!

- ❖ Are you living authentically with other Christians or do you conceal your sin struggles and hide them from everyone?
- ❖ Do you struggle with hypocrisy? If so, what do you see in your heart that motivates this?
- ❖ Often our hypocritical behavior is motivated by deep fears. Do you have some deep-seated fears that are affecting your relationship with God?

Think About It!

Daniel Defoe called pride “the first peer and president of hell.” Indeed, it was pride that transformed Lucifer into Satan (Isa. 14:12-15), and it was pride (“Ye shall be as God!”) that caused our first parents to sin (Gen. 3). Pride opens the door to every other sin, for once we are more concerned with our reputation than our character, there is no end to the things we will do just to make ourselves “look good” before others. (Warren Wiersbe)

Note from Pastor Jerry: For this year’s CG questions, group resources and Bible studies from John Stott (Acts Seeing the Spirit at Work), John MacArthur (MacArthur Bible Studies: Acts), Jack Hayford (Kingdom Power) and Max Lucado (Life Lessons from the Book of Acts) are used in addition to original material.

WORSHIP RESOURCE

December 5, 2021 | Second Sunday of Advent

WORSHIP SONGS

GREAT THINGS

Words by Phil Wickham and Jonas Myrin, 2018

Come, let us worship our King. Come, let us bow at His feet. He has done great things. See what our Savior has done. See how His love overcomes. He has done great things. He has done great things.

O Hero of Heaven, You conquered the grave. You free every captive and break every chain. O God, You have done great things. We dance in Your freedom, awake and alive. O Jesus, our Savior, Your name lifted high. O God, You have done great things.

You've been faithful through every storm. You'll be faithful forevermore. You have done great things. And I know You will do it again for Your promise is Yes and Amen. You will do great things. God, You do great things.

Hallelujah, God above it all! Hallelujah, God unshakable!
Hallelujah, You have done great things.

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Words by Charles Wesley, 1744 | Music by Rowland Pritchard, 1855

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing, news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end.
By thy life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This, the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King.
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

BEHOLD HIM

Words and Music by Paul Baloche and Mitch Wong, 2019

He who was before there was light,
walked across the pages of time.
He who made every living thing, behold Him.

He who heard humanity's cry,
left His throne to wake as a child.
He became like the least of us, behold Him.

*Jesus, Son of God, Messiah, the Lamb, the roaring Lion.
Oh, be still and behold Him. Jesus, Alpha and Omega,
our God the risen Savior. Oh, be still and behold Him.*

He who dined with sinners and saints,
healed the blind, the lost and the lame,
even now He is in our midst. Behold Him.

He who chose a criminal's end,
paid with blood to settle our debt,
buried death as He rose to life, behold Him.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty. Jesus, you're my hope and stay.

AT THE CROSS (LOVE RAN RED)

Words and Music by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Matt Armstrong, Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman, 2014

There's a place where mercy reigns and never dies. There's a place where streams of grace flow deep and wide. Where all the love I've ever found comes like a flood, come flowing down.

At the cross, at the cross, I surrender my life; I'm in awe of you, I'm in awe of you. Where your love ran red and my sin washed white, I owe all to you; I owe all to you, Jesus.

There's a place where sin and shame are powerless. Where my heart has peace with God and forgiveness. Where all the love I've ever found come like a flood, comes flowing down.

Here my hope is found, here on holy ground. Here I bow down,
Here I bow down. Here arms open wide, here you saved my life,
Here I bow down, here I bow down.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 110; Amos 6:1-14; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12; Luke 1:57-68

MONDAY | Ps. 67; Amos 7:1-9; Revelation 1:1-8; Matthew 22:23-33

TUESDAY | Ps. 94; Amos 7:10-17; Revelation 1:9-16; Matt. 22:34-46

WEDNESDAY | Ps. 53; Amos 8:1-14; Rev. 1:17-2:7; Matthew 23:1-12

THURSDAY | Ps. 18; Amos 9:1-10; Rev. 2:8-17; Matthew 23:13-26

FRIDAY | Ps. 102; Haggai 1:1-15; Rev. 2:18-29; Matthew 23:27-39

SATURDAY | Ps. 72; Haggai 2:1-9; Revelation 3:1-6; Matthew 24:1-14

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Sovereign God, we know that you, who began a good work in us, will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. May our love overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help us to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ we may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. Amen.



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