

March 26, 2023
Acts 5:1-16
Deceit
“Liar, Liar, Pants On Fire”

Husband and wife collude together to present a gift and a lie to the Lord. No one in their right mind can think this will go well.

“Men may build their churches with a tolerance for sin, but the Lord builds His among people who love holiness and hate and expose sin.” *John MacArthur*

Sin in the church must be exposed and dealt with openly to maintain a pure church. Church discipline will drive away those who love their sin, but on the other hand it will attract those who hate sin and *seek a place of refuge where righteousness reigns*. In the face of this strict judgment from God many were repelled and shied away, but take note that many were drawn to the church and saved.

They brought the money and laid it at the apostle’s feet. Supernaturally, Peter saw right through their hypocrisy. Why have you allowed Satan to fill your heart to lie, not only to us, but also to the Holy Spirit? The young Christian community had been infiltrated. The attacks against the church up to this point had been from without, now the enemy changes strategy and goes undercover.

Deception is disastrous. To have let this go unchallenged would have set the church in its infancy completely off course. Can you imagine how many dead people there would be if they were stricken by God over lying about finances within the church today?

Application:

Death can be a result of sin in a believer’s life, read **I John 5:16** about the sin leading to death. Also in **I Corinthians 11:30-32** read about those who are sick and some who died because of taking the Lord’s Supper in an unworthy manner. Please take a moment to consider the power of the spoken word. Words can be used to lift people up, or tear them down. Words are used to encourage or dishearten. Christians be careful how you use your words. Your words and actions are powerful, use them wisely and for the glory of God. Oh what a tangled web we weave when at first we set out to deceive.