

ACTS 4:32 — 5:11

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Acts 4:32

“of one heart and of one soul” – that means they weren’t arguing all the time.

“the things which he possessed” – the plurality of what he had

“had all things common” - shared of their abundance

Acts 4:33

“witness of the resurrection” – right at the center of Christianity stands the resurrection.

Acts 4:34

“prices” – their plurality; what they had sold them for.

Acts 4:35

“at the apostles’ feet: and distribution was made” – somebody always has to be responsible before God for the distribution.

Acts 4:36

“Josef” - Joseph

“consolation” – exhortation – *paraklēsis* – translated exhort in other parts of the Word like **Corinthians**.

“surnamed Barnabas” - In **Acts 1:23** many Bible scholars, at least of the past, believe that ‘Joseph surnamed Barsabas’ is the same one as ‘Joseph surnamed Barnabas,’ because ‘Barnabas’ is the same word as ‘Barsabas.’ And if it’s true, it’s interesting because it was not Barsabas who was selected at that time but Matthias. The answer to why he was not selected must be in **verse 37**. I don’t really know. If this is the same Barsabas in **Acts 9:27**, it’s real significant. **Acts 11:22-25**; **Galatians 2:9**, if this is that same Barnabas, it’s quite a record.

“a Levite” - **Numbers 18:20-21** – ‘I am’ - God had planned and knew that if the people were to be taken care of, they’d have to be taught God and helped to know God. That’s why He says, “I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel.” They were to give full time to the teaching of God and the truths of God and His Word. They did not have any material gifts given to them as far as land or property. They were just to live off of the income, the tenth in Israel. The tithe in Israel was a lot more than a tenth. Perhaps it amounted to as much as 30% that went to the temple. One tenth of it was used for supporting the Levites. Now Aaron was a Levite; not every Levite was an Aaronite. The high priests came out of the Aaron bloodline. I think it’s true that the daughters of the priestly families had to marry Aaronite men. Elizabeth’s husband was of one of the courses, Abia, and Elizabeth is of the royal Aaron bloodline. (**Luke 1:5**)

The temple guards, the captain of the temple, like when Jesus sent someone to get the things he needed for the entry into Jerusalem, the people who kept those animals and took care of them, were Levites. They were never to own any property. They had no inheritance. They were to live off of the tenth that was made available. If you will read the Old Testament, you will find out that they didn’t

stay honest. They got selfish, big and fat on money and skinny on God. It was their love of money; the love of material things, that God really got angry about a number of times with the Levites. For them it became ‘the root of all evil.’

Acts 4:37

“Having land sold *it*” – it said very plainly that he was a Levite. When you’re born again of God’s spirit you get remission; as far as God is concerned, it’s perfect harmony and alignment. Then why did he have to sell the land? For the same reason they brought their curious arts and their books in **Acts 19**. He had to clean up his life. **Verse 37** is in the renewed mind category. It made it possible for them to renew their minds and walk with great freedom and great love of God. **Deuteronomy 10:8-9** is another reference regarding the Levites.

Acts 5:1

“Ananias with Sapphira” - It’s real interesting that this happened to two people, one whose name meant “grace” (Ananias) and the other “beautiful” (Sapphira). So no matter what your name is, if you really cop out on God, you bring destruction to yourself. It hasn’t anything to do with your name, but has everything to do with how you operate on the inside, your heart, your renewed mind. These two are only mentioned here in the Word of God. I think this is a fantastic teaching coming up here because you’re going to see how a man and wife connive, put things together, because they want respect. They are on an ego trip and want to be highly recognized, talked about, this kind of thing.

“sold a possession” – singular

Acts 5:2

“privy” – conscious – she was knowledgeable of it; right in cahoots with it. They kept back part of the price but acted like they had given everything.

I Timothy 6:10 - “erred” - seduced in the Septuagint, same as in **Genesis 3**.

Acts 5:3

“the Holy Ghost” – the *pneuma* the *hagion*

Peter knew by revelation manifestations that they had cheated. God never asks us to sell our singular, what we need, but should we sell it and then act like we give it all, then we better give it all. The reason Joseph sold his singular was because he was a Levite. But Ananias and Sapphira wanted the apostles to think they had done everything. But they didn’t fool Peter because God told him that Ananias had not done what he had said he did.

“Satan filled thine heart” - the seat of his personal life, his mind. He tricked him in his mind to lie to the *pneuma* the *hagion*, which is God. The proof that *pneuma* *hagion* is God is in **verse 4**, the last phrase. **James 4:5-8** & **II Peter 2:15** - Putting these records together with **Acts 5**, you see that it was this envy in Ananias. **Numbers 22:31-34** & **31:8** Here was Balaam doing good in one sense, yet not honest in another. Ananias and Sapphira were doing good in one sense; they were part of the body, the family, but not really a member of the household because they were cheating. That’s why the illustration of Balaam is applicable.

Acts 5:4

“thine own” & “in thine own power” – they had the right to do what they wanted with it and after it was sold they had the right to say what was going to happen to it. All they would have had to do was walk in and say, “Look, we sold our possession, our singular; we will give you 1/3 of it”, and nothing

would have occurred. There's a lot more to this than just property or money; it's a heart condition, an 'old-man' mind trip. Like Balaam wanting all those gifts for himself, if he could just get the right revelation. He didn't want to hurt Israel; he just thought, revelation would be revelation, and if it said Israel was going to get killed, he might as well get paid for it. He didn't deliberately want to go against God. It's a really tricky heart thing. It's a lot deeper, here, than just money; the whole idea behind it of deception, ethics, moral involvement, and everything else. In **Acts 12:12**, Mary, the mother of Mark had a house. God never asked them to sell their singular. She never sold her house and gave the money.

Acts 5:5

“And” - but or now

“the ghost” – spirit - soul life - breath life. Did Peter kill him? No! Peter by revelation saw it. There are a lot of things I don't know about the Word and how this stuff all operates. This great law of God, in the world, like the rain falling on the just and the unjust alike, like people who can stand up and spit into God's face and raise hell with him, and yet they live through it. Why God doesn't just withdraw whatever there is in the world that makes for life and protection of that person, I don't always know. There is something in the world that (I don't know any way to say it but) when God's hand of grace is withdrawn, the Adversary kills them right now. Sometimes I wish God would take His hand off more people at times but sometime He might take it off of us and then we'd be in the soup too. **I Corinthians 5:4-5** – I don't know very much about that, except I know you can't turn anyone over to the Devil without revelation. But there are just some times, in the Bible, when 'the hand of God' (that's a figure of speech) is removed, then the Adversary kills them just like that. Sometimes I think we ought to just be thanking the Lord bigger for either more revelation or more of something; that these people who stand against God and the Church of God ought to have a burying ceremony. There are certainly people today standing against God and His Word, today, many times just as badly as Ananias and Sapphira; cheating God. Death is of the Adversary and therefore whatever occurred here, something happened that the tremendous protection of God, or whatever it is, was gone and the man died.

“fear” respect

“these things” - omitted

The reverence, respect, came because they heard what had happened.

Numbers 15:32-36; 16:31-35; II Thessalonians 3:14-16 - Most people lose their peace when they admonish someone. The Lord tells you if you have to straighten somebody up, don't lose your peace. Don't you get shook over the thing. If they obey not our word, God's Word, which is the epistle, note him, you reprove him. If someone won't listen to you, what do you do? Make him a Twig coordinator? We play with that stuff and I wonder if that isn't the reason why many times we're not getting the results that we would be getting if we'd really walk this way. Maybe that's why there would be greater reverence, respect in the Church. Because if a few people died this way, it would keep things sort of sharp. But I think we get “lovey-dovey” all the time. I know how hard it is, you do to, to really lay on somebody about the Word. Usually you hate to do it because you know how bad you feel on the inside and yet **verse 16** says the Lord give you peace; if you have to tell somebody what the Word really says and he's a brother – that's what it was; Ananias and Sapphira were brother and sister to Peter, born-again believers,

II Thessalonians 3:6 – What it is saying is, the Word of God is right-on and stay put; if some brother doesn't want to walk that way, let him walk the way he wants to but don't you go with him. Just say, "Okay, that's the way you want to walk, okay with me, but I'm staying put on God's Word. That's what it's talking about. In **verse 15** "admonish" would mean to share the Word with them. It's our responsibility to hold it forth to them.

Leviticus 10:1-2

"sons of Aaron" – priests – royal family.

"strange fire" – What's that mean? – "Every fire that was put in the censer where they burn incense before the Ark of the Covenant was supposed to be gotten from the graven altar which was outside. That strange fire was any fire that they didn't get from there because that fire was originally kindled by God. The tabernacle was all set up according to the way He wanted it and it was never supposed to go out. Up until this time, all the priests could go into the holy of holies at any time. After these guys blew it, only the high priest could come in once a year and that only for a few hours or so, but before then the access to the presence of God was open to all the priests at any time. When they blew it like this it was what became the day of atonement." Where is the record that from that day on only the high priest could go in? – **Leviticus 16:1-3, 16-17**

II Samuel 6:6-7 - Real sincere. God's Word had been no one touches the ark. This fellow thought he'd help God a little bit. Cost him his life. The sharpness of the Word many times in the Old Testament is almost chilling. Well, I thought those verses would add greatly to those words in Acts, where Ananias and his wife fell down and gave up the ghost.

A question was asked if Herod's death in **Acts 12:21-23** would fall into this category. Answer; that's a good one.

Acts 5:6

"young men" - These were younger men, not elders or kids. They were adult young men.

Acts 5:7-9

"the spirit of the Lord" – 'Lord' - *Kurios* The lie to 'the *pneuma hagion*' of **verse 3** is God, according to **verse 4**. 'spirit of the Lord' in **verse 9** has to also be God. If that word 'Lord' could be worked over into the Old Testament form of *Jehovah*, it would fit like a hand in a glove. If that word 'God' in **verse 4** could be utilized that way, we'd have a real strong word in those verses. That would be God as *Jehovah* dealing on a horizontal level with His people, which has to be, because this is an 'Earth' situation. It couldn't be *Elohim* because that would be God as the creator. We've got to get rid of the idea that that is Jesus in **verse 9** because if you don't, then that will make Jesus God. P 74 (1522, 1838), a manuscript from about the 7th century, reads, "...that ye have agreed together to tempt the Holy Spirit?" Omitting "of the Lord." Parallel Hebrew word would have to be *Jehovah* or a similar word.

Acts 5:10

"yielded up the ghost" – gave up her life – 'ghost' is spirit – soul life.

Acts 5:11

This verse is like a reiteration of **verse 5**.

"these things" - deleted in the Aramaic

There was a lot of power in that first century Church. They were tight together. These kinds of things operated within the Church, revelation was there, things happened. You are never going to have the greatness of God and His power among our people until you get that tightness together, one mind, one spirit. Just stand.

In the discussion someone brought up **I Timothy 1:20** to go along with scriptures given earlier. “to blaspheme” is ‘to lie’ to God.