



Putting On A Religious Front

August 23, 2026

Acts 5:1-11



Introduction:

In a world full of evil, we are in danger of being desensitized to, and minimizing, sin.

Ananias Confronted (V1-6)

“3Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?”

- Ananias yielded to Satan’s (the father of lies) influence, causing him to walk in hypocrisy rather than genuine holiness.
- God, through Peter, confronted Ananias in his sin.
- The sin was NOT that he didn’t give enough, but that he lied and said that he gave all the proceeds to the church, when in reality he kept some back for themselves.
- Ananias, after not owning up, dropped dead and fear came upon all who heard of it.

Sapphira Confronted (V7-11)

“8And Peter said to her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much”, And she said “Yes, for so much” 9But Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord....”

- After 3 hours, not knowing what happened to Ananias, she comes and Peter questions/confronts her
- God gave her a chance to confess, but she continued in the lie.
- It’s not about the money, Luke doesn’t even record the amount. It’s the love of money that is the root of all kinds of evil. **It’s always a heart problem.**
- She fell over dead and fear comes upon the whole church and all those who hear of it.



Putting On A Religious Front

August 23, 2026

Acts 5:1-11



Introduction:

In a world full of evil, we are in danger of being desensitized to, and minimizing, sin.

Ananias Confronted (V1-6)

“3Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?”

- Ananias yielded to Satan’s (the father of lies) influence, causing him to walk in hypocrisy rather than genuine holiness.
- God, through Peter, confronted Ananias in his sin.
- The sin was NOT that he didn’t give enough, but that he lied and said that he gave all the proceeds to the church, when in reality he kept some back for themselves.
- Ananias, after not owning up, dropped dead and fear came upon all who heard of it.

Sapphira Confronted (V7-11)

“8And Peter said to her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much”, And she said “Yes, for so much” 9But Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord....”

- After 3 hours, not knowing what happened to Ananias, she comes and Peter questions/confronts her
- God gave her a chance to confess, but she continued in the lie.
- It’s not about the money, Luke doesn’t even record the amount. It’s the love of money that is the root of all kinds of evil. **It’s always a heart problem.**
- She fell over dead and fear comes upon the whole church and all those who hear of it.

Jesus Warns of Hypocrisy (Luke 12:1-3)

“In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. **Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be made known.** Therefore whatever, you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the private rooms will be proclaimed on the rooftops.”

Luke 12:1:3

- Ananias’s and Sapphira’s sin was not that they didn’t give enough, but that they lied in order to put on a good front.
- Hypocrisy and pride are a deadly combo because it keeps us blind to the genuine conditions of our own hearts. (Mt. 15:8-9)
- **At the root of hypocrisy is a fear of man greater than a fear of God** (See Luke 12:4-6, Psalm 25:14, Acts 4:19, Acts 5:29)

We are tempted to hide who we really are. (Read 1 Jn 5-10)

We are all in danger of acting and speaking in ways that make it appear as though we are more “holy” and “devoted” than we actually are.

We are all tempted to hide our sin. Don’t. Bring it to the light. Tell a brother or sister with whom you have a relationship with.

James 5:16 [16](#)Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

Jesus Christ is a perfect shelter of grace allowing sin to be confessed not concealed.

Is there something in your life you are tempted to keep a secret? Who might you be able to confess to?

Jesus Warns of Hypocrisy (Luke 12:1-3)

“In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. **Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be made known.** Therefore whatever, you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the private rooms will be proclaimed on the rooftops.”

Luke 12:1:3

- Ananias’s and Sapphira’s sin was not that they didn’t give enough, but that they lied in order to put on a good front.
- Hypocrisy and pride are a deadly combo because it keeps us blind to the genuine conditions of our own hearts. (Mt. 15:8-9)
- **At the root of hypocrisy is a fear of man greater than a fear of God** (See Luke 12:4-6, Psalm 25:14, Acts 4:19, Acts 5:29)

We are tempted to hide who we really are. (Read 1 Jn 5-10)

We are all in danger of acting and speaking in ways that make it appear as though we are more “holy” and “devoted” than we actually are.

We are all tempted to hide our sin. Don’t. Bring it to the light. Tell a brother or sister with whom you have a relationship with.

James 5:16 [16](#)Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

Jesus Christ is a perfect shelter of grace allowing sin to be confessed not concealed.

Is there something in your life you are tempted to keep a secret? Who might you be able to confess to?