

**“Shake Ups & Wake Ups”**  
**(Mighty Acts series) (Acts 4:32-5:16)**  
**August 20, 2017**

[Up to this point, opposition to the early followers of Jesus came from outside the church. But in this passage, the opposition came from within. In a series of stories describing huge contrasts in the middle of a huge shake-up—God gets the attention of His people!]

**Acts 4:32-5:16**

**1. BIG difference between SELFLESS ACTS & SELFISH “ACTING.”**

- **Joseph/Barnabas- (Acts 4:32)**
  - His name changed by the apostles to reflect his life—he was “an encourager”
  - He **willingly** sold a valuable property on the island of Cyprus
  - He brought **all** the proceeds from the sale—that those in need could be served by the church (the fruit of “*one accord*”)
- **“BUT Ananias & Sapphira...” (Acts 5:1)**
  - **NOTE: Both of their names convey a “gracious generosity”; yet their actions are far from gracious or generous.**
  - They sold a property and gave some of the proceeds to the church (NOTE: There was nothing wrong with what they did; generosity was not mandated; this was a community, not a commune.)
  - **THE issue: they lied in order to make it look like they were doing something more than they actually were.**
  - **“Hypocrisy” is “acting”—to deceive others into thinking we are someone we are not. (A sign of “discord”)**
  - **NOTE: Jesus referred to “hypocrites” as “white-washed tombs; internally dirty cups; and sons of Satan.” He constantly used “hypocrites” as examples of how not to pray, give, serve, or worship.**
- **OBSERVATIONS:**
  - Peter received insight from HS—he did not curse them
  - God dealt strongly and swiftly with their sin of dishonesty—because the church was in its formative years (*breaking the effects of dishonesty, distrust, & disunity*) similar to Achan’s sin as Israel entered the Promised Land & conquered the 1<sup>st</sup> city of Jericho (Joshua 7:1- *causing many others to die*).
  - **Honesty overcomes Hypocrisy.** (NOTE: Just because judgment hasn’t occurred like Acts 5 today—doesn’t mean God tolerates hypocrisy. Galatians 6:7-8- “God isn’t mocked...sow...reap”)
  - Ephesians 4:25- “Put off falsehood...speak truthfully.”

## 2. What FILLS US will FLOW THROUGH US.

- **“Satan filled Ananias’ heart to lie against the HS” (Acts 5:3)**
  - Contrast with HS filling believers to speak the truth (Acts 4:31).
- **Satan functions as:**
  - **“Tempter” (Luke 4:2)**
  - **“Deceiver” (John 8:44)**
  - **“Accuser” (Zechariah 3:1-2; Revelation 12:10)**
  - **He is also both “divisive” and “destructive” (John 10:10)**
- **In sharp contrast—those filled with HS were honest, honoring, and connected (“sharing all things in common” involved more than possessions—they “shared their very lives” 1 Thessalonians 2:8).**
  - **They united—moving toward one another (Lit.- “running together” Acts 3:11)**
  - **Signs and wonders flowed through them easily (Acts 5:12-16)**
  - **Everyone was included (i.e., “Solomon’s Portico/Porch” (Acts 5:12)**
  - **“Everyone respected them” (Acts 5:13) Atmosphere of honor & trust.**
  - **The community of believers both resisted the enemy’s infiltration of distrust—and facilitated HS’s agenda of unity and healing.**
  - **They were “overshadowed” with God’s presence & power (Acts 5:15); much like Mary being overshadowed (Luke 1:35) and Jesus on Mount of Transfiguration (Luke 9:34).**
  - **People who were “harassed by evil spirits” (Acts 5:16) were set free.**
  - **NOTE: Deliverance is not primarily “dramatic”—it is a decisive end to the tyranny, accusation, torment, deception, and accusation of the enemy—and a clear demonstration of Jesus’ superior authority.**
  - **Satan’s attempt to attack the church from within—came to nothing!**