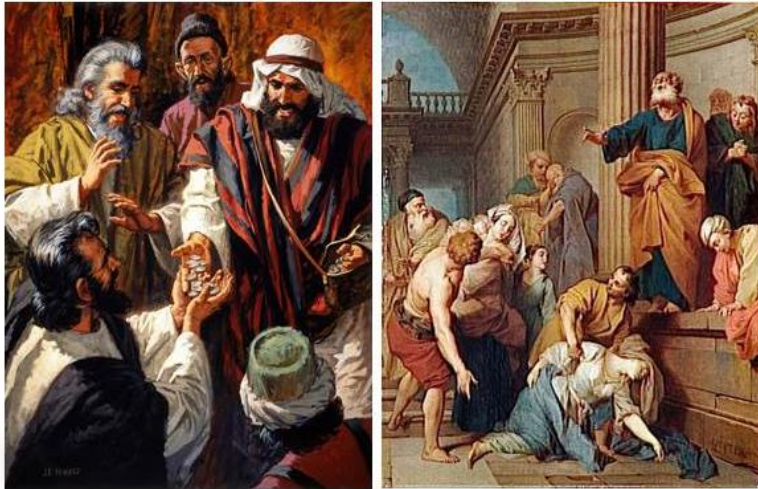


GREAT GENEROSITY AND GRIM JUDGMENT Acts 4:32-5:11



Great generosity creates a church with all its needs met. 4:32-37

- ◆ This sounds utopian (cf. 2:43ff.), but it doesn't fit with prosperity theology or with groups who are adamantly anti-ownership, I Thess. 4:11,12, II Thess. 3:10ff. Jerusalem has an issue: Rom. 15:16, I Cor. 16:1ff., Acts 11:27-30, Gal. 2:9,10. Believers must share: I Thess. 4:11,12, Js. 2:15,16, Eph. 4:28
- ◆ Barnabas is one example of many sharing saints. He appears 23x in Acts!

Grim judgment upon a deceptive couple creates great fear. 5:1-11

- ◆ Ananias and Sapphira's sin. = lying/testing the Holy Spirit (God) in 5:3,4,9.
- ◆ Contrast "filled with Spirit" (4:31) and "Satan filled your heart" in 5:3.
What seems to have motivated this brazen act of deceit?

- ◆ Why such "deadly discipline" here? Why don't we see this happen today?

Compare this attempt to deceptively cheat God to Josh. 7:1ff.
Sudden deaths amongst believers: Lv. 10:1,2, Num. 16:1ff., II Sam. 6:6,7

- ◆ Note the repeated result of this severe judgment = *phobos megas*, 5:5,11

- ◆ What is God's expectation for the church to do since later He will rarely intervene with immediate judgment like this? Matt. 18:17, Thess. 3:14,15, I Cor. 5:1ff., Titus 3:10