

Message Notes

for today's message on . . .

"Why no one names their kids 'Ananias' or Sapphira!"

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – *"Sitting around looking at God's photo album..."*

How the early church shared in all things and continued to grow (Acts 4:32-35)

A good example of this sharing (Acts 4:36-37)

A not so good an example of this sharing (Acts 5:1-4)

How did Ananias respond? (Acts 5:5-6)

What about Sapphira? (Acts 5:7-11)

Four B.Q.s about this passage

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Application – *"Do you have 'great fear' over sin?"*

Acts 4:32-5:11

³²All the believers were one in heart and mind. No-one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. ³³With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. ³⁴There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

³⁶Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), ³⁷sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

¹Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. ²With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

³Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?

⁴"Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God." ⁵When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. ⁶Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

⁷About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"

"Yes," she said, "that is the price."

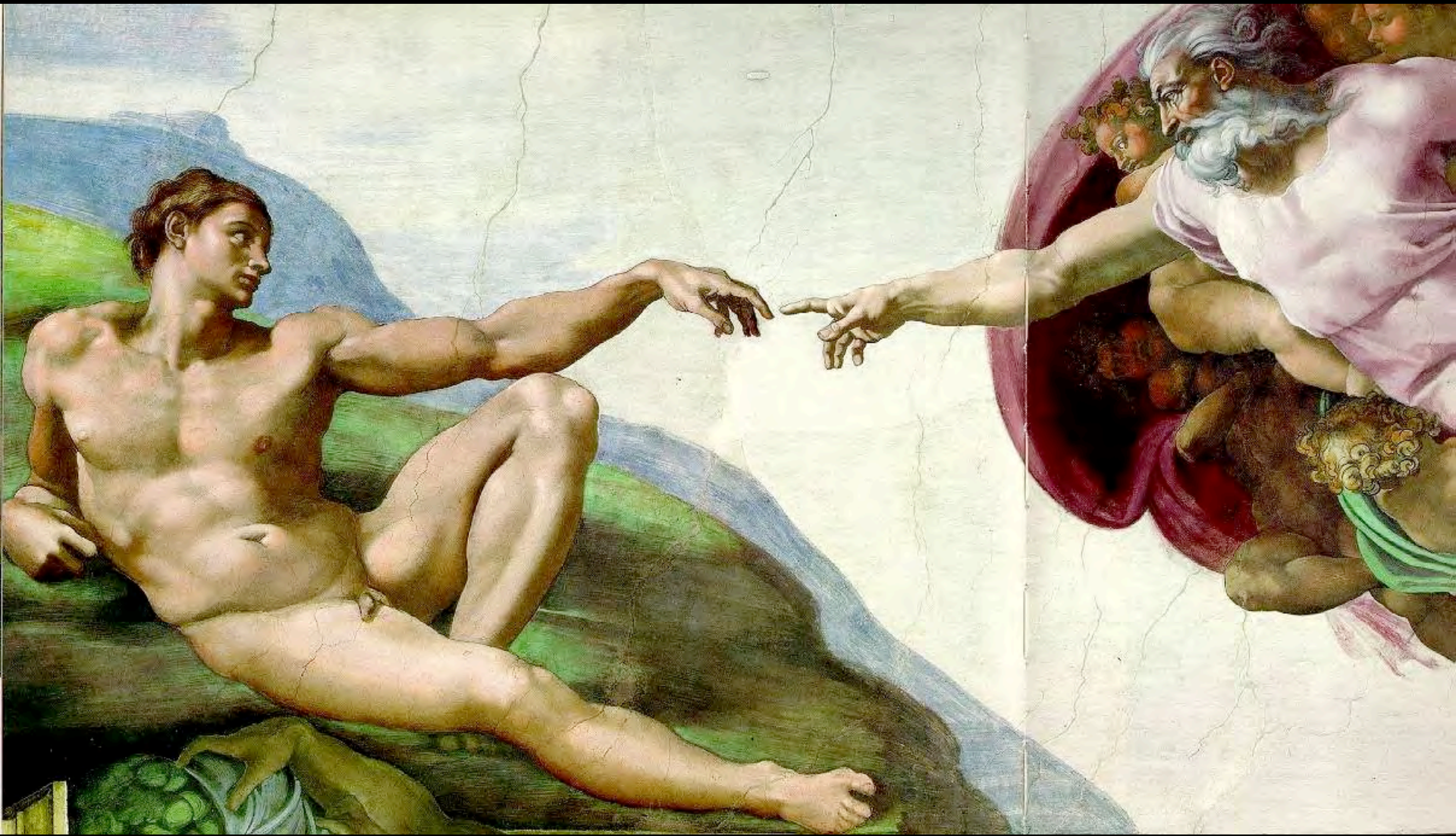
⁹Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

¹⁰At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.





Taken from Apollo 8, 1968





Abraham and Isaac
Rembrandt, 1630







Acts 4:32-5:11

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2. What was Ananias and Sapphira's sin?

Proverbs 6:16-19

¹⁶There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him:

¹⁷haughty eyes,
a lying tongue,

hands that shed innocent blood,

¹⁸a heart that devises wicked schemes,
feet that are quick to rush into evil,

¹⁹a false witness who pours out lies
and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

“In YFC we do not expect the volunteers not to make mistakes. We are willing to pay the price of those mistakes. Even though they may give us a bad name, we do not regard them as serious. But there is one thing we regard as deadly serious: lying. When people are not truthful with themselves, there is a hindrance so that God cannot work with them to help them. They are on a dangerous path.”

*~~ Ajith Fernando, National Director of
Youth for Christ in Sri Lanka*

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2. What was Ananias and Sapphira's sin?

3. I thought the New Testament was a grace filled book! What's up with Peter?

4. Does God judge like that today?

Lord, show me any habits of deception in my life.

I now renounce all lies I am using to make others think I am more spiritual than I really am.

Cleanse me of all dishonesty, and make me walk in the light as you are in the light.

Lord, make me see sin the way you see sin, as a horror, as an abomination - let me fear it!

Show me ANY area where I am allowing sin to take control in my life.

I now repent and turn to you to forgive me and cleanse me and set me on the right path.

Right now, I cling to the cross of Jesus for my forgiveness and as my only hope.

In Jesus name,

Amen