

Power Comes at a Price

Acts 5

2.25.2024

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Empowered

Reflect

Outline: Recap

Realize

Points to Ponder

Respond

Questions to draw out understanding.

REFLECT

We have a tendency to believe that when God is at work, everything will be easy. We expect smooth sailing when God is in charge. But expectations can ruin relationships. The Bible is full of accounts where God is definitely at work, but rather than things being easy, they can be downright messy and confusing. Acts 5 is a perfect example of this. With all that God is doing inside the early church, we are shocked to see this account of the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira. And to compound it, there are increasing tensions with the Jewish religious leaders.

REALIZE

1. Don't test the Spirit of God.

- **Scripture Reference;** Acts 5; Deuteronomy 6:16; Matthew 4:7
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - How can I eradicate hypocrisy from my life?

2. Expect resistance.

- **Scripture Reference;** Acts 5; 2 Timothy 3:12
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - Where is God asking me to obey that I am struggling to fulfill?

3. Obey God... no matter what.

- **Scripture Reference;** Acts 5; John 14:15
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - How can I let the love of Jesus grow in my heart?

4. Rejoice when you share in Jesus' sufferings.

- **Scripture Reference;** Acts 5; 1 Peter 4:12-16
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - How can I let the love of Jesus grow in my heart?

Optional Follow-up Questions:

- What makes you say that?
- How do you feel about that?
- How would you explain your answer to a non-Christian friend or neighbor?
- Why did God design it to work that way? Why not just do (whatever else) instead?
- What would you say to someone who disagrees with that?
- Why do we really have to do it like that? Why can't we just go (some other route) instead?