

The "ABCs" of Acts – Pleasant View Church of Christ
Adult Class – Fall / Winter 2021-2022

E: _____

Chapter 5 (1-42)

I. Hypocrisy in the Early Church (1-10)

- a. **Deception (1-2)**
"kept back" = νοσφίζω
-nosphizō
-Joshua 7:1
- b. **Discovery (3-4)**

Satan planted the seed and Ananias Conceived the sin

The apostles were ambassadors of God II Cor 5:20

- c. **Discipline (5-10)**
-Why was this severe discipline necessary?
-God staged an event message!
-God's judgment against all hypocrites is recorded
-They had time to repent, because this was a premeditated action (9)

II. Effects of This Discipline (11-16)

- a. **Kept Church in Awe (11-12)**
- b. **Kept Hypocrites Out (13)**
- c. **Kept Gospel Rolling (14)**

Heb. - "God is Gracious" Aram. - "beautiful"

1 But a man named **Ananias**, with his wife **Sapphira**, sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. Acts 4:34,37

2 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?"

3 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? **You have not lied to men but to God.**

4 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and **breathed his last**. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.

5 The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

6 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

7 And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much."

8 But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."

9 Immediately she fell down at his feet and **breathed her last**. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

10 And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

11 Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico.

12 None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem.

13 And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,

14 so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them.

15 The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

The case of Ananias and Sapphira is opposite that of Barnabas.
(Acts 4:36-37)

They wanted to appear like Barnabas, without making a genuine sacrifice

Ananias is rebuked instead of Satan
- James 1:12-15

What if Ananias had succeeded in his undertaking?

"breathed...last" = ἐκψύχω
-ekpsuchō
-Only used for those struck down by divine judgment (Acts 12:23)

"church" = ἐκκλησία
-ekklêsia
-First time this word is used in Acts

(Compare to story of Achan (Joshua 7:1-26))

III. Continued
 Persecution (17-42)

a. *The anger of the Sadducees (17-18)*

Annas or Caiphas
 Acts 4:6

Luke 3:1-2
 John 18:12-14

17 But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with **jealousy** <- Lit. "Hot Steam"

The apostles had been openly defying the charge of the **Jewish Sanhedrin (Acts 4:18)**

b. *The angel of the Lord (19-21)*

First of six actions ascribed to angels in the book of Acts:
 (2) 8:26
 (3) 10:3
 (4) 12:7
 (5) 12:23
 (6) 27:23

18 they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison.

19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said,

Compare to the release of Peter in Acts 12:6-10

20 "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the **words of this Life.**"

John 6:68
 John 1:4
 John 14:6
 2 Tim 1:10
 1 John 5:11

21 And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach. Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council and all the **senate of Israel** and sent to the prison to have them brought.

Jewish Sanhedrin

c. *The astonishment of the jailers (22-26)*

1. *The prisoners are gone (22-24)*

I Chron 9:11
 II Chron 31:13
 Nehemiah 11:11

22 But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported,

23 "We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside."

The guards saw and heard nothing!

24 Now when the **captain of the temple** and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to.

25 And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people."

2. *The preachers are back (25-26)*

26 Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, **but not by force**, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

The apostles were held in high esteem

d. *The accusation by the Sanhedrin (27-28)*

27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them,

28 saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you **intend to bring this man's blood upon us.**"

Acts 4:18 - Charge to Peter and John
 Matt 27:25 - The blood of Jesus was already on them...

- e. **The answer by the apostles (29-32)**
1. They explain their mission (29, 32)
 2. They explain their Messiah (30-31)

- f. **The advice of a lawyer (33-42)**
1. The counsel (33-37)

Four things about Gamaliel:

- (a) He was a member of the Sanhedrin
- (b) He was a Pharisee
- (c) He was a doctor or teacher of the law
- (d) He was held in honor by all people

2. The conclusion (38-39)
3. The compromise (40)
 - Deut 25:1-3
 - Matt 10:17
 - II Cor 11:24
4. The commitment (41-42)

Possible Explanations of Theudas

²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men." { Acts 4:19-20

³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. { Acts 7:54-60 - Stephen was stoned when he said that he saw Jesus sitting at the right hand of God.

³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." Acts 22:3 -Paul was a pupil of Gamaliel

³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them.

³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while.

³⁵And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men.

³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing.

³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered.

³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail;

³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice,

⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, **they beat them** and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

The reaction here is similar, but they are stopped by the words of Gamaliel

{ Josephus mentions a Theudas who led a revolt in 44 or 45 A.D.

{ Gamaliel's speech could not have been later than 37 A.D. (see below)

{ Josephus mentions this Judas numerous times
 -Ant., XVIII, i, 6
 -Ant., XX, v, 2
 -Wars, II, viii, 1
 -Wars, II, xviii, 8
 -Wars, VII, viii, 1

{ Census of Quirinius (6 or 7 A.D.)

{ James 1:2-4

{ Acts 22:20
 -Paul taught from house to house

1. Josephus was in error with regard to the chronology of Theudas (less likely)
 2. There were two insurgents with the same name. Luke places the rebellion of Theudas before Judas (A.D. 6 or 7) with 400 men (relatively small). Josephus mentions the rebellion of Theudas (A.D. 44 or 45) with "a great part of the people" (Ant XX, 5, 1)

Story of Achan

Joshua 7:1-26 (ESV)

¹ But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the Lord burned against the people of Israel.

² Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, "Go up and spy out the land." And the men went up and spied out Ai. ³ And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not have all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not make the whole people toil up there, for they are few." ⁴ So about 3,000 men went up there from the people. And they fled before the men of Ai, ⁵ and the men of Ai killed about thirty-six of their men and chased them before the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them at the descent. And the hearts of the people melted and became as water. ⁶ Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until the evening, he and the elders of Israel. And they put dust on their heads. ⁷ And Joshua said, "Alas, O Lord GOD, why have you brought this people over the Jordan at all, to give us into the hands of the Amorites, to destroy us? Would that we had been content to dwell beyond the Jordan! ⁸ O Lord, what can I say, when Israel has turned their backs before their enemies! ⁹ For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it and will surround us and cut off our name from the earth. And what will you do for your great name?"

¹⁰ The Lord said to Joshua, "Get up! Why have you fallen on your face? ¹¹ Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen and lied and put them among their own belongings. ¹² Therefore the people of Israel cannot stand before their enemies. They turn their backs before their enemies, because they have become devoted for destruction. I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you. ¹³ Get up! Consecrate the people and say, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow; for thus says the Lord, God of Israel, "There are devoted things in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the devoted things from among you." ¹⁴ In the morning therefore you shall be brought near by your tribes. And the tribe that the Lord takes by lot shall come near by clans. And the clan that the Lord takes shall come near by households. And the household that the Lord takes shall come near man by man. ¹⁵ And he who is taken with the devoted things shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the Lord, and because he has done an outrageous thing in Israel.' "

¹⁶ So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought Israel near tribe by tribe, and the tribe of Judah was taken. ¹⁷ And he brought near the clans of Judah, and the clan of the Zerahites was taken. And he brought near the clan of the Zerahites man by man, and Zabdi was taken. ¹⁸ And he brought near his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. ¹⁹ Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the Lord God of Israel and give praise to him. And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me." ²⁰ And Achan answered Joshua,

"Truly I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I did: ²¹ when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

²² So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and behold, it was hidden in his tent with the silver underneath. ²³ And they took them out of the tent and brought them to Joshua and to all the people of Israel. And they laid them down before the Lord. ²⁴ And Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver and the cloak and the bar of gold, and his sons and daughters and his oxen and donkeys and sheep and his tent and all that he had. And they brought them up to the Valley of Achor. ²⁵ And Joshua said, "Why did you bring trouble on us? The Lord brings trouble on you today." And all Israel stoned him with stones. They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones. ²⁶ And they raised over him a great heap of stones that remains to this day. Then the Lord turned from his burning anger. Therefore, to this day the name of that place is called the Valley of Achor.

Deception

"kept back" - Greek NASB Number: 3557

Greek Word: νοσφίζω

Transliterated Word: nosphizô

Root: from Ὀλυμπος **nosphi** (apart);

Definition: to abandon, to set apart:--

List of English Words and Number of Times Used

keep back (1),
kept back (1),
pilfering (1).

—NASB Greek-Hebrew Dictionary

—Same word that was used in Joshua 7:1 in the Septuagint translation (LXX) – see above

His success would not only have turned the most praiseworthy feature of the new Church into a source of corruption and hypocrisy, but it would have brought discredit upon the inspiration of the apostles, by showing that the Spirit within them could be deceived. Thus the whole fabric of apostolic authority, which was based upon their inspiration, would have fallen, and precipitated the entire cause into hopeless ruin. The attempt, therefore, presented a crisis of vital importance, and demanded some such vindication of their inspiration as could neither be mistaken nor forgotten. The immediate effect of the event was just the effect desired: "great fear came upon all who heard these things." — Acts of the Apostles – McGarvey

Acts 4:36-37 (ESV)

³⁶ Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, ³⁷ sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Discovery

James 1:12-15 (ESV)

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Leviticus 10:1-3 (ESV)

¹ Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, which he had not commanded them. ² And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord. ³ Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord has said, 'Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.' " And Aaron held his peace.

2 Corinthians 5:20 (ESV)

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Discipline

"breathed...last" - Greek NASB Number: 1634

Greek Word: ἐκψύχω

Transliterated Word: *ekpsuchô*

Root: from [1537](#) and [5594](#);

Definition: to expire, breathe one's last:--

List of English Words and Number of Times Used

breathed her last (1),

breathed his last (1),

died (1).

—NASB Greek-Hebrew Dictionary

Acts 12:20-23 (ESV)

²⁰ Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they came to him with one accord, and having persuaded Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for peace, because their country depended on the king's country for food. ²¹ On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. ²² And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" ²³ Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.

Results of Discipline

"church" - Greek NASB Number: 1577

Greek Word: ἐκκλησία

Transliterated Word: *ekklêsia*

Root: from [1537](#) and [2564](#);

Definition: an assembly, a (religious) *congregation*:--

List of English Words and Number of Times Used

assembly (3),

church (74),

churches (35),

congregation (2).

—NASB Greek-Hebrew Dictionary

The Anger of the Sadducees

Acts 4:5-6 (ESV)

⁵ On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.

Acts 4:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

Luke 3:1-2 (ESV)

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

John 18:12-14 (ESV)

¹² So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³ First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴ It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

The Angel of the Lord

Acts 8:26 (ESV)

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place.

Acts 10:3 (ESV)

³ About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius."

Acts 12:6-11 (ESV)

⁶ Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. ⁷ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. ⁸ And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." ⁹ And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. ¹¹ When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

Acts 12:23 (ESV)

²³ Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.

Acts 27:23-26 (ESV)

²³ For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, ²⁴ and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.' ²⁵ So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. ²⁶ But we must run aground on some island."

Words of this Life

John 6:68-69 (ESV)

⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

John 1:4 (ESV)

⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 14:6 (ESV)

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

2 Timothy 1:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

1 John 5:11 (ESV)

¹¹ And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

The Astonishment of the Jailers

Captain of the Temple

I Chron 9:11 (ESV)

and Azariah the son of Hilkiah, son of Meshullam, son of Zadok, son of Meraioth, son of Ahitub, the chief officer of the house of God;

II Chron 31:13 (ESV)

while Jehiel, Azariah, Nahath, Asahel, Jerimoth, Jozabad, Eliel, Ismachiah, Mahath, and Benaiah were overseers assisting Conaniah and Shimei his brother, by the appointment of Hezekiah the king and Azariah the chief officer of the house of God.

Nehemiah 11:11 (ESV)

Seraiah the son of Hilkiah, son of Meshullam, son of Zadok, son of Meraioth, son of Ahitub, ruler of the house of God,

The Accusation by the Sanhedrin

Acts 4:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

Matthew 27:24-26 (ESV)

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." ²⁵ And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" ²⁶ Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

The Answer by the Apostles

Acts 4:19-20 (ESV)

¹⁹ But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰ for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

Acts 7:54-60 (ESV)

⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

The Advice of the Lawyer

Acts 22:1-3 (ESV)

¹ "Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you." ² And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said: ³ "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day.

Deuteronomy 25:1-3 (ESV)

¹ "If there is a dispute between men and they come into court and the judges decide between them, acquitting the innocent and condemning the guilty, ² then if the guilty man deserves to be beaten, the judge shall cause him to lie down and be beaten in his presence with a number of stripes in proportion to his offense. ³ Forty stripes may be given him, but not more, lest, if one should go on to beat him with more stripes than these, your brother be degraded in your sight.

Matthew 10:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues,

2 Corinthians 11:24 (ESV)

²⁴ Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.

James 1:2-4 (ESV)

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Acts 20:18-21 (ESV)

¹⁸ And when they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.