

Acts 5: Judgment of the Church

I. The Highest Spiritual Condition of the Church in Jerusalem

- A. The church has the authority to judge
- B. The purpose of judgment is purification — analogous to the human body's ability to purge waste

II. The Judgment of the Church: Ananias and Sapphira (vv. 1–11)

- A. Light within the spirit of an apostle — Peter was filled by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:15)
- B. Judgment is within the realm of the Holy Spirit
 - 1. The Holy Spirit was in control
 - 2. The Holy Spirit was in opposition to the evil spirit
 - 3. Cannot lie to nor test the Spirit of the Lord
- C. Judgment caused the purification of the church — Ananias and Sapphira fell down (vv. 5, 10)
 - 1. Hidden things in small matters are often the cause of catastrophic destruction
 - 2. The purpose of judgment is to remove evil and maintain the spiritual health of the church
 - 3. "Great fear seized the whole church" (v. 11) — resulted in fearful and reverent hearts
 - 4. Young men carried out the dead man — the life that is strong extinguishes death

III. The Church Rose Up Because of Purification (vv. 12–16)

- A. Gifts were expanded and their functions flowed more smoothly
- B. The church was highly esteemed and believers were increasingly added to the Lord
- C. Unprecedented spiritual honor was revealed — honor comes from the Lord Himself

IV. Judgment Leads to Warfare (vv. 17–32)

- A. The rise of the church provoked the jealousy and hatred of the enemy even more
 - 1. The religious world will always be the instrument in the enemy's hand
 - 2. Outward pressure was allowed by the Lord so that the church could progress unceasingly — spiritual authority is only used to deal with spiritual matters
- B. The church is under the responsibility and protection of heaven
 - 1. "During the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail" (v. 19) — the angel is a sign of heavenly authority
 - 2. The intervention of heaven was the reason for the apostles' courage
 - 3. The enemy was puzzled, not knowing what the outcome would be (v. 24)
- C. Man and the Holy Spirit having the same testimony is the perfect partnership
 - 1. The most powerful instrument of Satan — the power of tradition — cannot hinder the Lord's testimony
 - 2. "We must obey God rather than men" (v. 29) — must stand on God's side
 - 3. Witness for the resurrected Lord — honor the Lord as Prince and Savior, holding fast to the ground of testimony (vv. 31–32)
 - 4. The Holy Spirit is also a witness of these things (v. 32)

V. What Is of God Cannot Fail: Gamaliel's Speech (vv. 33–39)

- A. Boasting in self will result in nothing — Theudas (v. 36)
- B. Those who revolt will be scattered — Judas the Galilean (v. 37)
- C. Purpose and activity of human origin will fail (v. 38)

VI. Exalt Jesus Forever (vv. 40–42)

- A. Rejoice in suffering disgrace for the Name (v. 41)
- B. Never stop teaching and proclaiming that Jesus is the Christ (v. 42)