

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 28TH–MARCH 1ST, 2026 // BOOK OF ACTS

THE PROVIDER (ACTS 4:32–37)

A REFLECTION OF JESUS

This passage is similar to 2:43–47. Luke is emphasizing the unity and generosity of the early Church. He says they were of “one heart and mind.”

- God doesn't intend for the church to be cultish or legalistic, but we are to be like a family that helps others when they are in need.

HOW DO WE MANAGE PASSAGES LIKE THIS?

Though many early Christians sold their belongings and gave the proceeds to the Church, we are not commanded to do this.

- The point is that we are to be **grateful for what we have, willing to make sacrifices for others, and generous and open-handed** because it is all God's anyways.

TRUSTING JESUS WITH EVERYTHING

The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil (1 Timothy 6:10), but generosity shapes our hearts and helps keep us aligned with Him.

- **If we will be wise, avoid greed, and trust Jesus with our finances through consistent giving, He will make sure we're taken care of.**

REPERCUSSIONS (ACTS 5:1–11)

QUITE THE CONTRAST

Luke goes from a man laying money at the apostles' feet to a couple that lies to them for selfish gain. **The sin wasn't keeping some money but pretending to be all in though their hearts were really set on themselves.**

- Ironically, Ananias means *God is gracious* and Sapphira means *beautiful*.

“YOU HAVE NOT LIED TO PEOPLE BUT TO GOD”

The Church will always have insincere and even morally corrupt people in its midst. This couple **wanted acclaim and to look Christlike without any sacrifice or commitment.**

- We can often fool people, but not God. **True faith and growth only come via effort, intentionality, and sacrifice.**

GOD KILLED HIM?

Verse 5 is a little scary. When the lie was revealed, “Ananias dropped dead, and a great fear came on all who heard.”

- Some argue that he had a heart attack at the revelation of his dishonesty, but regardless of the medical reason, God ordained his death at this moment.

“ABOUT THREE HOURS LATER”

About three hours after they buried Ananias, his wife Sapphira came in and was asked about the sale price of the land. She also lied and “test[ed] the Spirit of the Lord” and “instantly she dropped dead” as well.

- These two deaths caused “great fear... on the whole church and on all who heard.”

WHY WOULD GOD DO THIS?

Greed and deceit are prevalent in the world, but they should never be part of the Church.

Selfishness undermines the Spirit's work and erodes the effectiveness of the Church.

- This extreme act set a precedent that **evil will be held to account, especially evil done in His name.**

THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR ACTIONS

There are always ramifications for sin. Though this scenario is unique, spiritual death always awaits those who live in rebellion to truth and righteousness.

- God doesn't expect us to be perfect but to strive to live holy, honest, humble lives and to repent when we do evil things.

VESSELS (ACTS 5:12–16)

GREATER THAN MAN'S LAWS

The apostles continued to preach and perform “many signs and wonders,” though they had been told by the Sanhedrin not to witness.

- Christians are to **“submit to the governing authorities”** (Romans 13), **but when laws contradict Scripture, we must obey God first** (Daniel 3).

“NO ONE ELSE DARED TO JOIN THEM”?

This obviously doesn't mean the Church wasn't growing because v. 14 says the number of Believers, both men and women, was “increasing.”

- More than likely, this meant no one dared to antagonize them because they witnessed the power of God through them.

POSSIBLY SOME MISGUIDED INTENTIONS

Many miracles were performed in the early Church for the practical reason that they validated the apostles' claim that Jesus is the Savior.

- The problem was that **many came more for physical blessings than spiritual cleansing, and they missed the real purpose of knowing Jesus.**

WE ALSO TEND TO FASHION IDOLS

One's shadow was superstitiously believed to be an extension of the person. Bringing the sick to be touched by Peter's shadow showed that the crowd was starting to idolize the disciples.

- We respect and honor leaders, but **we must be careful to not place people in positions they're unable to live up to.**

“TORMENTED BY UNCLEAN SPIRITS”

We can't blame all sin on demonic influence (James 1:14), but we also can't ignore the presence of evil (1 Peter 5:8) and spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:12).

- **If we're not in a relationship with Jesus and wise about what influences us, we can easily open the door for demonic oppression and even possession.**

GOD STILL TOUCHED THE PEOPLE

Some may have come for selfish reasons, but v. 16 says, “they were all healed.” This could be Jesus supporting truth with physical proof or just Him showing unmerited grace.

- Regardless of our understanding, **we're to live righteously, believe God can do anything, and trust that His will is perfect.**

TRUSTING JESUS WITH EVERYTHING

- Jesus stands at the door and knocks, waiting for us to invite Him in (Revelation 3:20).
- Though everyone experiences common grace, **only those who invite Jesus into every corner of their life experience the provision and deep blessings of being in relationship with Him.**

OUR CHOICES HAVE CONSEQUENCES

- If we choose to live in rebellion to God and His Word (sin), **there will always be some level of ramifications for our actions.**
- Jesus gave us His Word to guide us (2 Timothy 3:16–17), and He disciplines us because He loves us and wants what is best for us (Revelation 3:19).

WE ARE ALL VESSELS OF SOMETHING

- Jesus set the perfect example, we have the Word for clarity, and the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to be vessels for God to work in and through us.
- All of us will be conduits for godliness or worldliness. **To be vessels of God, we must intentionally live in relationship with Him.**

AN HONEST INVENTORY

- **Do we trust Jesus with everything in our lives**—our futures, desires, money, talents, jobs, relationships, etc.?
- Do we understand that our choices have consequences? **Do we take responsibility for our actions and lives?** Do we shift blame and adopt victim mentalities?
- **Are we vessels for godly or worldly ideology?** Do we know the difference? Do we channel **biblical truth, love, generosity, hope, power, and grace?**
- Do we **strive to grow close to Jesus while purposefully avoiding “unclean” influences** that will draw us away from Him?