

Longview Baptist Temple
Sunday School Lesson
January 4, 2009



=SAIL ON THE STEWARDSHIP=
Cirrhosis of the Giver
Acts 5:1-11

INTRODUCTION: Cirrhosis of the liver is a disease which hardens and finally ceases the functioning of the liver of the human body. There are many side affects to this disease which affects the human body. In the majority of cases cirrhosis of the liver is caused from drinking liquor and other types of alcoholic drinks.

Today we want to talk about "cirrhosis of the Giver." Sapphire and Ananias died from "cirrhosis of the Giver." "Paying the Tithe" and giving an offering to the Lord's work is not only a command of God, but is one of the greatest privileges the born again child of God is given in the service of God.

Let us consider "cirrhosis of the giver" which involves Ananias and Sapphira. Let us note their problem. How did they detect "cirrhosis of the giver?"

I. **THEY FELLOWSHIPED WITH SATAN.** verse 3

1. They had to fellowship with Satan for him to "fill their heart." verse 3
2. Can you imagine what Satan "filled their hearts with?" Such as: "They don't need all the money." "Eat drink and be merry." "You work hard." "Put something in a sock you deserve it." "No one will ever know." Etc.
3. The first mistake Eve made, she fellowshiped with Satan. Satan filled her heart, "ye shall not surely die." (Genesis 3:4) She fell. (Genesis 3:6-7) She caused Adam to fall.
4. The first mistake you will make is to fellowship with Satan. Jesus said, "Get thee behind me Satan" that's what you had better tell Satan!

II. **THEY KEPT BACK.** Verse 2

1. Ananias and Sapphira "sold a possession." It could have been a home, land, etc.
2. The Greek word here translated "kept back" is the same word used in Titus 2:10, where it is rendered "purloin" and is translated "to rob." So they were robbing God.
3. They didn't want to go "all the way with God." They wanted to go part of the way, and wanted people to think they went all the way. The same way Church members do today.

III. **THEY LIED.** Verse 3

1. They lied to the Holy Ghost. (verse 3)
2. They lied to God. (verse 4)
3. They lied to the people. (verse 8)
4. They professed to give the whole price of his property as a gift of brotherly love to the Church, when his actual aim was to glean for himself and his wife credit for giving the whole thing and keep back part.

IV. **THEY CONCEIVED.** Verse 4

1. They conceived – means to decide after deep deliberation.
2. They did not yield to sudden temptation but had talked it over and planned it this way.

V. **THEY PLOTTED.** Verse 9

1. This was a deliberate sin.
2. This was a clearly planned scheme to deceive believers and to rob God!
3. You can't out "plot" God!

VI. **THEY TEMPTED.** Verse 9

1. Putting to test the righteousness of God.
2. We are not to test God. (Matthew 4:7)
3. God won't tolerate our lying.

VII. **RESULTS – THEY DIED.** Verses 5 and 9

1. Their death was supernatural – Holy Spirit.
2. God cut them off in severe judgment.
3. God increased His Church through miracles, healing, sick, raising of the dead, feeding the hungry. In like manner He sent judgment to save His Church! I Corinthians 11:17-30.