

# LESSON 5

---

## CHURCH DISCIPLINE— AND MORE PERSECUTION

### THE FIRST CASE OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE (5:1–11)

The church was united, appreciated, and growing. Satan could not tolerate this. He desired to divide it, disgrace it, and decrease it. He had attempted to destroy the church from without—through persecution. Now he would try to destroy it from within—through pretension.

1. What was the nature of Ananias' and Sapphira's sin?
2. What might have prompted their decision to deceive?
3. What were the three parts of Peter's statement to Ananias?
4. What ideas must be part of a true understanding of Ananias' punishment?
5. What did God intend this action to demonstrate to other Christians?
6. What Old Testament stories parallel what happened to Ananias and Sapphira?
7. What does it mean to put God to the test (5:9)?
8. What is the history of the word "church," and how is it used in the Book of Acts?

### POPULARITY GROWS (5:12–16)

It is not mere coincidence that the story of discipline is followed immediately by the account of accelerated church growth. As the discipline of Achan was followed by great victory for Israel, so the discipline of Ananias and Sapphira resulted in new victories for the gospel.

9. To whom does "the rest" refer to in 5:13?

10. How did people react to the church and to the apostles?

**MORE PERSECUTION (5:17–42)**

The apostles' growing popularity, plus their audacious disobedience of the Sanhedrin's edict, made it just a matter of time until they were brought back before the Council.

11. From where does the word "sect" come?

12. For what purpose did God's messenger release the apostles from prison?

13. Why did the apostles choose not to cause any trouble when they were arrested again the next morning?

14. What two charges were brought against the apostles by Caiaphas?

15. How would each of Peter's words in 5:30–32 have irritated the Council?

16. How was the reaction of the Council to Peter's words different from the reaction to Peter's sermon in Acts 2?

17. What were the origin and beliefs of the sect of the Pharisees?

18. Since Luke did not record the words of Gamaliel for application in all religious situations, why did he record them?

19. What did flogging involve in New Testament times?

20. What is the difference between the words "teaching" and "preaching" in 5:42?