

## "Bring Your Best" (Part 2)

Acts 5 - February 25, 2018

*Why and how should we bring our best to God?*

### Acts 5:1-6

This is one of the most gripping and terrifying things that we see happening in the life of the early church. If we're honest, it seems to be a bit harsh or an overreaction.

Yet the ancient Greek word for 'kept back' (verse 2) means, 'to misappropriate'. It's also used in the Bible to refer to theft.

Professing to give *all*, they only gave some. Pretending *total* dedication, they held some back.

#### 1) Because Hypocrisy & Deceit, Can Bring Both Damage & Death

When it comes to prayer, faithfulness, holiness, obedience, serving, being a witness, etc. - these aren't things to be played with.

None of us does any of these perfectly, but are we *striving* for these things in the Christian life?... We can't claim to be *followers* of Jesus, if we're not really following Jesus.

Ananias' other sin, was pride. He wanted everyone to think he was spiritual & 'gave it *all*' - when he hadn't. Are we desirous of that?... Do we pray about giving more of ourselves?

*"It's too easy to be happy with the image of spirituality, without the reality of a spiritual life; and their great sin was rooted in pride, as pride corrupts the church more quickly than anything else."*

#### 2) Because By Not Doing So, It Can Weaken, Hurt & Hinder Who God Has Called Us To Be

We can't be certain about Ananias and Sapphira's motives, but we can be certain that they weren't good; and you wonder if they were more concerned about image, rather than transparency?

You wonder if they were more concerned about self-preservation, than they were about honoring God at His Word.

You wonder if they were choosing comfort and contentment, rather than serving and maintaining a spiritual soberness.

If we're pursuing the American Dream w/ Jesus as our co-pilot, then we need to wake up from that nightmare and make Jesus the Pilot!

This eats away at our self-value & pride, when in reality - we're only showing our tendency to worship the gift & the *created*, rather than the Giver of the gift, the *Creator*. **Vs.3\*...**

This wasn't just about Ananias & Sapphira but *much more so*, their potential effect on God's people & their kingdom progress... As an example needed to be made to that local body of believers.

### Acts 5:7-14

#### 3) Because Nothing Can Impede The Progress Of The Mission & Vision **\*Vs.14**

*"The Church has never been harmed or hindered by opposition from without; it has been perpetually harmed and hindered by perils from within."* - G. Campbell Morgan **\*Vs.3**

*"Either Ananias or the Spirit had to go!"* - Anonymous

The awesome thing is that the Father includes us, His beautiful children - made in His image, to join Him in the greatest thing going on planet earth... Which has *always* been the case - "To *know* Him, & make Him *known*".