



Dear heavenly Father, we worship You this morning with our tithe and offerings. We pray for the courage to put You first in our lives. In the name of Jesus, amen.

JUNE 12, 2021

When Ananias and Sapphira refused to put God First

Putting God first can be difficult. What can we learn from Ananias and Sapphira, who refused to put God first?

They really wanted to put God first. They believed in Jesus and are likely to have been baptised with the Holy Spirit. But Ananias and Sapphira found it difficult to keep their promises to God.

At first, they said they would give all of the funds they received for their land. This is a generous offer, above and beyond what God had asked. Before the sale, they must have been happy to make this promise. Perhaps it was the peer pressure of watching many other people sell their possessions and give it all to the apostles.

The problem came when Ananias and Sapphira had the money in their hands. Greed set in. They started to imagine all of the things they could buy with that money. Greed birthed the plan and the plan led to their death.

They agreed to tell the church that they only received a lesser amount than they were expecting.

By the end of that day, both Ananias and Sapphira were dead and buried. Why did God treat them so harshly? Was money a sufficient reason to end their life?

God is serious about honesty and integrity. This is as true in our tithes and offerings today as it was for Ananias and Sapphira's sale money. God doesn't force anyone to promise to give a certain amount as offering every month. But once we promise Him, it is clear that God expects us to keep that promise.

But what if we have failed in the past? Let's not continue lying to ourselves and to God. We can be true to our promises anytime, including today.

Ananias and Sapphira refused to put God first. The consequences were terrible for them and the people around them. God's love compels us to put His Kingdom first, while Ananias and Sapphira's example is a warning for us today. As the deacons collect the tithe and offerings, we are challenged to put God first.