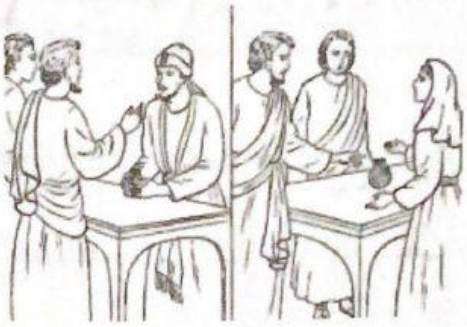
Lesson: 20

Growing in Value –Honesty

THE COUPLE WHO TOLD LIES TO GOD

More and more people believed the good news about Jesus. His followers became known as the people of the Way. They loved one another and shared everything with each other. No one wanted to keep anything he owned for himself. Many rich people, who owned land, sold it and gave the money to the apostles to be shared around.



Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, decided that they would do the same. "But it seems a pity to give all the money away," Ananias said regretfully. "Peter need not know how much we got for our land. "Let's keep some for ourselves." Sapphira agreed.

Ananias handed the money to Peter, but Peter knew what had been going on.

"Ananias," he said gravely, "Why did you think up this plan to deceive God? You did not have to sell the land or even give all the money away. But you wanted to pretend that you were being generous and giving all you had to God when you were really keeping some back for yourselves. You have been telling lies to God!"

When Ananias heard Peter's stern words, he fell down dead. Some of the young men who were standing by carried his body away and buried it.

Three hours later Sapphira arrived, wondering where her husband was. Peter held up the money that Ananias had given to him "Tell me, Sapphira," he asked, "Was this the full amount that you got for your land?"

"Yes," Sapphira lied easily.

"How could you both agree to lie to God?" Peter asked. "Do you hear those footsteps? Here come the men who have been burying your husband. Now they will carry your body away, too."

At once Sapphira fell to the ground and died. The terrible news spread far and wide. Everyone began to realize that having God's Holy Spirit meant being obedient to Him, as well as enjoying His peace and power.

Because of their lies and selfishness, Ananias and Sapphira spoiled the full trust that there had been among the followers of Jesus. Things would never be quite the same again.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. Give TWO ways the early followers of Jesus treat one another. [2]

2. What are the names of the couple who tried to deceive Peter? [2]

3. In paragraph two write the sentence stating what the couple decided to tell the disciples. [2]

4. Write **T** for true and **F** for false for the following sentences. [4]

Ananias fell down dead.

Ananias was buried by young men.

Sapphira said she had given all of the money.

Ananias and Sapphira spoiled the full trust among the followers.

5. What lesson do you think the others learn as a result of what happened to Ananias and Sapphira?

LIVEWORKSHEETS