

## Acts-Chapter 4 and 5- Handout #2

### Chapter 4

Sadducees - Did not believe in spirits and angels; did not believe in the resurrection of the body; believed in strict adherence to the Mosaic Law; wanted to preserve the status quo.

Annas was former High Priest; His son-in-law, Caiaphas, was the high priest (ad. 18-36)

The term “filled with the Holy Ghost” literally means “influenced by the Holy Ghost”. The command to “be filled with the Spirit” thus means “submit to the influence of the Holy Ghost”

The events of this chapter are the result of the miraculous healing of the lame man in chapter 3; he was over 40 yrs old.

v.1-4 The leaders were “grieved” by this preaching and by the positive response of the people. They took Peter and John into custody, however, 5000 more believed.

v.5-12 The next day Peter and John stood before the Sanhedrin (high court of the Jewish people which comprised 71 men, which included the high priest). Big question: By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? From this chapter in there is the putting forward of the name of Jesus (which by the way the leaders refuse to say). Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost preaches his third sermon claiming there is no other name by which any can be saved except Jesus.

v.13-22 Taking note that these men spoke boldly but were “unlearned and ignorant”, the leaders conferred amongst themselves wanting to stop the spread of preaching in this name. They commanded Peter and John preach no longer in that name. v.19 they responded Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. In other words, we are going to obey God.

v.23-31 - When the apostles are let go and they return to the saints with one accord they pray boldness (v.29) to speak God’s word, and for signs and wonders (v.30) done by the name of Jesus. The place is shaken they were filled with the Holy Ghost (strongly influenced by the Holy Ghost) and spoke the word of God boldly. When we pray with one accord God will shake up things.

v.32-37 - With one heart and one soul, they sell their possessions and share with one another. No one had lack. Important to note that they thought that Jesus was coming back in their generation so this was a temporary situation as they waited on the soon coming King. They laid their possessions at the apostle’s feet. In verse 36 we are introduced to a man by the name of Joseph (Joses) whom the apostles nickname Barnabas which means son of consolation (encouragement). The writer Luke would introduce a major character in a minor role and then later expand their role in importance. This Barnabas would be the companion of Paul and be responsible for bringing many Gentiles to the Lord. His cousin in John-Mark who is the writer of the gospel of Mark. Barnabas was a Grecian Jew from Cyprus, a Levite, who owned property. Levites had no property in Israel but probably could own somewhere else.

## Acts-Chapter 4 and 5-Handout

Page Two

### Chapter 5

Barnabas had sold his property and laid all at the apostles' feet. This chapter begins with two who, in stark contrast to Barnabas, were dishonest with the Holy Ghost.

v.1-11 - Ananias and Sapphira sold a possession but kept back part of the price (skimmed off the top) and brought the remainder to the apostles. This is reminiscent of story of Achan (Joshua 7) who took of the spoils of Jericho which were to be set aside for God. Peter confronts Ananias asking why has Satan filled his heart to lie to the Holy Ghost (he was submitting to the influence of Satan, or better, of the flesh—greed, fear, unbelief. “You didn’t lie to men, you lied to God”. Hearing these words, Ananias dropped dead and they took him out. Three hours later his wife was confronted and she lied and said they brought all to the apostles. She dropped dead. Judgment of God was swift and severe. It wasn’t that they didn’t bring all, it was that they lied about it. Achan also paid for his trespass with his life.

v.12-16 - result: people feared God and didn’t join the assembly haphazardly. There were many signs and wonders; people brought the sick to be healed; believing that if the shadow of Peter would overshadow them, they would be healed. There was a belief that a person’s shadow was an extension of the person (a bit of superstition) yet because of their faith God healed (kind of like the hem of Christ’s garment).

v.17-28 - The high priest and the Sadducees grabbed all the apostles and put them in the “common prison”. But an angel came opened the prison door (and locked them back) and told them to go speak in the temple . Early in the morning while Jews were gathering for prayer, apostles went into temple and preached. The council convened to try their prisoners only to discover they were not there, even though the doors were still locked and the guards were still guarding. The captain without violence gets them from temple. “we told you not to preach anymore in This Name.

v.29-32 - Peter claims We ought to obey God rather than man. Jesus is Prince (author) and Saviour. We are witnesses and the Holy Ghost also.

v.33-42 - Gamaliel, Pharisee, Doctor of Law, most respected in his time, had taught Paul, says there were two uprisings that came to nothing. One led by Theodorus, and another by Judas. If this is of God you can do nothing about it. Why not wait and see, or you might be fighting God.

The leaders hear him, call the apostles and tell them not to preach in that name, they beat them 39 lashes and let them go. But the apostles rejoiced that they were worthy to suffer shame for the name of Jesus.