

Intro

When we try to fake godly living for personal glory, it is actually a LIE TO GOD. Consider how Peter didn't accept the praise from the people after the beggar is healed **back in Acts 3:12**. He said "Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"

Who's power was it? Luke the author of Acts makes it clear that the Holy Spirit is driving all the boldness & the generosity. Public approval may be acceptable, but it should immediately point back to Jesus & His spirit.

Study the passage

1) Acts 4:32-37 a United community

They were led to value people over & above possessions. They practiced generosity by sacrificing capital wealth too. They are a model of true integrity, a life-long commitment to God's purpose.

Who is identified as giving well, & do they appear later in Acts?
What would the opposite of this new culture look like?

2) 5:1-4 Weakened by sin (Seeking Status)

But this community was not perfect. The momentum of God's word could be weakened by rival attitudes like selfishness & being competitive.

Who motivated Ananias & Sapphira in this act?
What motivated them to lie? What spirit were they missing that the others had?
What does Jam4:7 tell us about resisting the lies of Satan?

3) 5:5-11 God's commitment to judge sin.

Why was God's judgement so quick?

2 more Old Testament references where God's message-bearers lost their integrity. Write down what parallels can you see, some common pitfalls?

Lev 10 (Aaron's sons, v3) & 2Ki7:8-9 (Greed, hiding plunder, not sharing)

What would be affected if these lies became known?
Back in Acts 5, what might the men who carried out their bodies be thinking?
V11. 'Great fear seized the church'. Describe what that fear might result in?

Sin is violating our sanctification (the process of God making us like Jesus). **Integrity is the foundation of God's message going forth. Envy & actions like telling lies really matter to God.**

Think it through

Jesus actively fought against the issue of **Hypocrisy** (people putting on a mask, faking trust in God). Religious hypocrisy (pretending to be holy) was left unchecked. The Jewish leaders themselves were a huge barrier & burden on the people that the mission was for.

Are we putting our integrity at risk? How are you still tempted to lie to God?

Are we mis-representing God & causing others to stumble by sin?

Is your reputation more important than God's reputation?

Our Integrity matters to God & his mission. Let's pray.