

Recap of 5/30/21 message (Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 5:12-29):

1. The immediate judgment of God upon Ananias and Sapphira in Acts. 5:1-11 had a purifying effect upon the church. Those not serious about the faith wanted nothing to do with the church. Nevertheless many men and women came to faith. The church's growth drew the attention of the Jewish religious leaders who began again to persecute the apostles. They had all twelve Apostles arrested and jailed with a view to trying them before the Sanhedrin. God sent an angel to release them and tell them to go back to the temple courts and continue to preach the gospel. Which they did.

2. They were rearrested and brought before the authorities, having been warned previously not to teach in the name of Jesus Christ. Their answer was the same as before (4:19,20), they must obey God rather than men. They choose obedience to God over obedience to the authorities.

-“The principle is that when a conflict between God and Caesar occurs God must be obeyed, but ordinarily one must ‘give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s (Matt. 22:21).” (Baker)

-“Believers are commanded to obey civil authority—except when it comes into conflict with the commandment of God.” (McGee)

-“The Christian’s primary responsibilities are evangelism and godly living. Through witnessing he changes men; through righteous living he affects society; through private and public obedience he honors God.” (Ryrie)

3. The principle for Christians, is to obey government except when it commands us to do evil. Biblical examples are: the Hebrew midwives, Ex. 1; Daniel and prayer, Daniel 6; and Hananiah, Mishael & Azariah and worshipping the idol, Daniel 3. Central passages in the Scripture concerning government are: Romans 13; 1 Peter 2:13-17; and Titus 3:1.

4. Our most effective means to affect government and culture is by prayer; witnessing, and living righteously ourselves.