



Acts 5:1-11

1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 2 and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God." 5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.

Acts 5:1-11

6 The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him. 7 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you[a] sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." 9 But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." 10 Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

Is there an area of our lives where we've quietly told Him, "You can have everything else, just don't ask me for that"?

Symptoms of a Divided Heart
The Root of a Divided Heart
The Cure for a Divided Heart

Symptoms of a Divided Heart

A divided heart always leaves clues. If we are able to pay close attention, our hearts reveal what they desire.

Symptom: Image Management

1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 2 and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Symptom: Rationalization

4 Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.

We should always be asking ourselves, where in my life have I become better at justifying my sin rather than confessing it?

Symptom: Domesticating God

You have not lied to man but to God.

"A preacher is a man who deals with souls. He is a physician of souls." - Martin Lloyd Jones

The Root of our Divided Heart

Our behaviors are not random but rather revelations of what is growing in our hearts.

3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God."

"Why has Satan filled your heart?"

"Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart?"

"Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to?...

...The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of - throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself." - C.S. Lewis

The Cure for a Divided Heart

The cure for a divided heart is not manually fixing our heart but rather setting it on the glory of God.

11 And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

"The fear of the Lord is that affectionate reverence, by which the child of God bends himself humbly and carefully to his Father's law." - Charles Bridges

"The fear of the Lord is not a fear that drives us away from God, but a fear that draws us to Him." -
Theologian Michael Reeves

"When we understand the character of God, when we grasp something of His holiness, then we begin to understand the radical character of our sin and hopelessness. Helpless sinners can survive only by grace. Our strength is futile in itself; we are spiritually impotent without the assistance of a merciful God. We may dislike giving our attention to God's wrath and justice, but until we incline ourselves to these aspects of God's nature, we will never appreciate what has been wrought for us by grace...."

...Even Edwards's sermon on sinners in God's hands was not designed to stress the flames of hell. The resounding accent falls not on the fiery pit but on the hands of the God who holds us and rescues us from it. The hands of God are gracious hands. They alone have the power to rescue us from certain destruction."

Corporate Confession

READER:

Father, you alone are worthy of our wholehearted worship, yet we confess that we often live with divided hearts.

ALL:

We desire your blessings while resisting your lordship. We trust in our own wisdom, cling to our own desires, and hold back areas of our heart from your rule.

READER:

Forgive us for fearing the opinions of others more than we fear you, and for loving the gifts more than the Giver.

ALL:

Teach us Your way, O Lord, that we may walk in your truth. Unite our hearts to fear Your name. Help us to give thanks to you, O Lord our God, with our whole hearts, that we may magnify your name forever.

Silent Confession

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us
our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
1 John 1:9

