

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29 | The transaction, 5

9Peter said to her, "How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

10At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

Today we're going to look at things from quite a different perspective. We've been looking from the outside. Let's shift to the disciples' point of view.

Since Peter is leading the questioning of Ananias and Sapphira, we will begin there. Peter walked with Jesus. He watched Jesus perform miracles. He listened to his teachings firsthand and watched him live them out. He also worked through doubts and confusion as he walked and lived with Christ. He watched Jesus die a horrible death, not understanding all that was happening at the time, betraying him in the process, and truly regretting it. Peter and Jesus have a heart-to-heart, so to speak, after his resurrection. Then to see two of his fellow believers, as we believe this couple to be, turn and act this way would have been personally offensive.

It should be personally offensive to us to see believers act in ways contrary to Scripture. The basic principles we stand on are to love God and love others. Whatever doesn't fulfill those two commandments should offend us. It should make our hearts break and for the wrong that's being done against God and others.

Jesus said these things make a person unclean, "...evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness." Mark 7:21b-22. Each of these things do not show love to God nor others. This is not an exhaustive list, which is why obeying the commandment to love God and others is the simplest and most effective way to live a life pleasing to God.

We all have things we need to work on for sure. Every now and again I hear something from someone that jolts to repentance in my own life. Someone once said casually to me that if another person spoke to them, they didn't have to speak back. They were referring to a friendly hello, nothing creepy or inappropriate. I didn't say anything in response, but I didn't agree. This person was a Christian, too. Does this behavior love others? Does it love God? Hebrews 13:2 says, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unaware." WHAT? Completely contrary to this verse. Something so simple as saying hello, smiling, waving your hand to a passerby will do. It's more than being rude. You could be snubbing an angel! Literally.

Our responsibility is to take to heart what breaks God's heart. This is how we know: "The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. 'For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?' But we have the mind of Christ." – 1 Corinthians 2:14-16. As spiritual people, we have knowledge from the Holy Spirit to be able to judge what is fruitful and what isn't. We are to be held accountable to this standard as well. God will judge us. The world cannot be held to this standard, but they are looking at us and watching to see how a Christian should live. They also watch to see how we interact with each other.

You have the mind of Christ! How amazing is that. Lean on the understanding and wisdom of the Holy Spirit to lead you in loving God and loving others.

MEMORY VERSE Hebrews 4:13 – *"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."*