Evangelism and the Book of Acts

"From Twelve to All the Nations of the Earth"

Acts 4:34 – 5:11

Great Fear Came Upon the Church

Read Acts 4:34-37 *Barnabas' gift*
Read Acts 5:1-11 *Ananias and Sapphira's similar gift*

Peter's discernment: ***"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?"***

A. Notice three things about Ananias' and Sapphira's failure:

1. Their goal was to _____ the _____.
   - They went through godly motions.
   - They did what the rest of the church was doing. v. 37
   - They didn't realize what they were messing with.
2. They were _____ out a _____.
   - They planned to deceive the church. v. 2
   - Their hearts wanted what they wanted.
   - The real lie was that their _____ were not _____.
3. They didn't understand the influence of _____.
   - *Why has Satan…?*
   - Satan's hooks.

B. Ponder the startling outcome:

1. v. 4-5 _____.
   How is it that you have agreed together to _____ the Spirit…?
   How do we "test" God?
2. A _____ _____ came upon the church.
3. Why did God do this?
   The _____ of the _____.

C. Changed lives and the Lord's Supper.

ACTS 4:34 – 5:11

ACTS 4:34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, 37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

5:1 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 men 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**. 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 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**.