

“RESILIENCE OF GOD’S KINGDOM” (ACTS 5)

READING: **Hebrews 12:28**

“Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe”

INTRODUCTION:

The influence of “corruption” (“leaven” or yeast) will forever attempt to infiltrate any system or organisation based on “good”

In this chapter such attempts firstly began on the “inside” of God’s kingdom (through a deceitful man and his wife) and when that did not result in overthrowing God’s kingdom, such attack was perpetrated on the “outside” (engineered by the Sadducees) However, God structured this kingdom, as a resolute organisation (through His Son and His Holy Spirit and in the end it fared better in its fight for survival.

(**Matthew 10:28**)

DISCUSSION:

God deemed it necessary to set a firm example at the beginning of the kingdom of Christ, regarding the unacceptable nature of deception and covetousness. Ananias and Sapphira became the two prime examples of the consequences of unacceptable behaviour in the church.

Principles demonstrated: Your money belongs to you until (voluntarily) promised to the Lord. After that, it then belongs to God, and should be dispensed according to His instructions.

The performing of miracles, once again, brought the opposition out in the open, and caused the apostles to land in jail. Continuing boldly (to proclaim to the people “...all the words of this life” (verse 20) gave the apostles an opportunity to place the ball in the opposition’s court, with the truth of the matter in **verse 29**: “We must obey God rather than man”

This resulted in them being beaten, and commanded “...not to speak in the name of Jesus”

CONCLUSION:

The result of such treatment by the opposition, just served to strengthen the apostles’ resolve, and they counted it an honour to suffer for Jesus’ name.

Culminating in the resolve and practice as mentioned in **verse 42**: “And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus”

Would you join those soldiers of God?