

# Today's Message

February 12, 2012

**THE MESSAGE OF ACTS: GOD'S ONGOING REDEMPTIVE MISSION**

## Lessons in Lordship: Authenticity

**Acts 5:1-11**

**Pastor Kevin Dixon**

*1 Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. 2 With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.*

*3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? 4 Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."*

*5 When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. 6 Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.*

*7 About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"*

*"Yes," she said, "that is the price."*

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

*10 At 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. 11 Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.*

### Introduction: Headlines

1. The Holiness of God: Isaiah 6:1-8; Proverbs 9:10

Regular and repeated encounters with the holiness of God are necessary for us to keep a right understanding of the person of God.

2. A view from the bleachers: (Man's perspective) Joshua 7:20-21;24,25  
What sins do we rationalize? When do we presume upon the grace of God?  
Without regular and consistent reminders of the holiness of God we begin to judge the motives of God.

**Conclusion: Lessons learned**

Acts 5:12-14; Galatians 6:7,8

The amazing love of God is demonstrated in his ongoing redemptive mission

*If you'd like to hear the message again, download it at [HersheyFree.com](http://HersheyFree.com) or purchase a CD at the Welcome Center. Pastor George can be reached at [gdavis@hersheyfree.com](mailto:gDavis@hersheyfree.com).*

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## Lessons in Lordship: Authenticity

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**Read Acts 5:1-13**

Ask each person to give their gut reaction to what happened.

What questions does it raise in your mind about God? About Grace? About forgiveness?

How does it feel that God is in control of our very days? (Psalm 139)

Have you encountered the Holiness of God?

**Read Isaiah 6:1-8**

What about this account helps you understand the holiness of God?

Why is it important to understand the holiness of God?

### **Read Proverbs 9:10,11**

How does the fear of the Lord bring wisdom?

What are some of the lessons we learn from Ananias and Sapphira?

### **Read Acts 5:12-14**

How did this incident change the way the world viewed the church?

Did this deter people from coming to faith?

What is the obvious tension for people?