

My Money and the Lord's

Acts 5:1-11

Introduction:

- A. The first scandal in the church involved the misuse of money.
 - 1. Conspiracy to lie (vv. 1-2).
 - 2. Death (vv. 5-10).
 - 3. Object lesson for others (v. 11)
- B. Christians need to be careful with two kinds of money mentioned in the text.
 - 1. "Thine own" (v. 4).
 - 2. "At the apostles' feet" (v. 2).

Discussion:

I. The Individual's Money – "Thine Own."

- A. Gained by various honorable means: Wages, trade, investment, gifts, etc. (Eph 4:28; 2 Thess. 3:10-12; Jas. 4:13-15; Lk. 19:23).
- B. Under control of individual in harmony with God's will. (v. 4).
- C. Used to fulfil the individual's function on earth.
 - 1. Domestic responsibilities (1 Tim. 5:8).
 - a. Food (John 4:8).
 - b. Clothing (1 Tim. 6:8).
 - c. Shelter (1 Cor. 11:22).
 - d. Education (cf. 2 Tim. 4:13).
 - e. Recreation (cf. Mk. 6:31).
 - 2. Civil responsibilities (Rom. 13:6-8)
 - 3. Charitable (humanitarian) responsibilities (Eph. 4:28; Jas. 1:27).
 - 4. Hospitable responsibilities (1 Pet. 4:9; Heb. 13:1-2).
 - 5. Spiritual responsibilities (Acts 8:4; Gal. 6:6; 1 Cor. 16:2).

II. The Lord's Money – "At the Apostles' Feet."

- A. Lord's treasury for special purposes has always been among His people.
 - 1. Israel (Num. 18:25-32).
 - 2. Apostles (John 12:6; 13:29).
 - 3. Early church.
- B. Gained by giving of Christians (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8, 9).
- C. Under apostolic authority (Acts 4:37; 5:2).
 - 1. "At feet" = under direction and/or control (Acts 22:3; Eph. 1:22).
 - 2. Apostolic word still directs and controls the Lord's treasury.
- D. Used to fulfill the collective function of the church.
 - 1. Things needed for worship, assembling, etc.
 - 2. Things needed for the church's work.
 - a. Preaching (Phil. 4:15-16; 2 Cor. 11:8; 1 Cor. 9:14).
 - b. Benevolence (1 Tim. 5:16; Acts 6; 11:27; 2 Cor 8, 9).
 - c. Edification (Eph 4:16).

Conclusion:

- A. Must clearly distinguish between "own" and "Lord's" money (cf. Acts 3:6)
 - 1. In raising money
 - 2. In using money.
- B. Must remember that money is "a thing to be used" (CHRIMA).
 - 1. For anything right to be done by individual or church.
 - 2. Anything that can be done, the money can be used for it.
 - 3. No such thing as church able to do it, but not "out of treasury."