

Acts 4:32-37; 5:1-11

*If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth,
who will trust you with true riches?
Luke 16:11*

Readings this week:

S Acts 4: 32-37
M Acts 5: 1-11
T Luke 16: 10-15
W 1 Timothy 6: 3-10
Th 1 Timothy 6: 17-21
F 2 Corinthians 8: 1-15
S 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

Read Acts 4:32-37. What does Barnabas' action tell you about the way the early Christians lived?

How do you think people felt about what he did?

Now read Acts 5:1-11. How were the actions of Ananias and Sapphira different to Barnabas?

What do you think about what happened to them?

What lessons does it teach you?

Cross out the wrong statements to make the telegram tell the true story.

ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA SOLD A PIECE OF LAND BECAUSE PETER TOLD THEM TO/THEY WANTED TO. ANANIAS BROUGHT SOME/ALL OF THE MONEY TO THE APOSTLES BUT HE SAID IT WAS THE FULL AMOUNT/ONLY A PART. HE TOLD THE TRUTH/LIED BECAUSE HE WANTED EVERYONE IN THE CHURCH TO THINK HE WAS SELFISH/GENEROUS. PETER SAID HE SHOULD GIVE ALL HIS MONEY TO THE CHURCH/HE COULD HAVE KEPT THE MONEY OR THE LAND IF HE DID NOT WANT TO GIVE IT. ANANIAS HAD REALLY LIED TO GOD/HIMSELF. ANANIAS SAID HE DID NOT CARE/FELL DOWN DEAD. LATER HIS WIFE CAME IN BECAUSE SHE HAD HEARD WHAT HAD HAPPENED/NOT KNOWING WHAT HAD HAPPENED. PETER SHOUTED AT HER/ASKED HER IF THAT WAS THE FULL AMOUNT THEY HAD BEEN PAID FOR THE LAND. SHE SAID SHE DID NOT KNOW/YES IT WAS. PETER SAID "HOW COULD YOU AGREE TO SELL THE LAND/ TEST THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD?"

Talk about the way that your attitude to money affects others. Discuss the way you would respond to these situations.

What would you do?

... if after shopping for your mother she forgot to ask you for the change?

.. if you found a ten pound note?

... if you have just enough to buy something you really want, as long as you do not pay your friend what you owe him for the sponsored run he did for the poor?

... if your friends were boasting that they get a lot of pocket money?

.. if you were given too much change?

... if someone forgot to ask you for the money you borrowed last week?

What do you think are the dangers in the money centred world we live in?

Being honest isn't just about money. What other ways are there you can be honest in your life? What difference does being honest make to God?

Can you think of other ways God might test your honesty? Talk about the ways you would respond to them.

Digging Deeper

Find out some more about Barnabas

Remind yourself what his name means Acts 4:36 and as you look up these passages think how his name might suit his character.

Acts 9:26-27

11:21-24

11:25-26

13:1-3

15:1-4

Pray that you may be a faithful servant of God: that you may be as honest and generous as God is to us.