



Awaken to the Movement!

# Acts 4.36 – 5.11

<sup>36</sup> Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), <sup>37</sup> sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.

# Acts 4.36 – 5.11

<sup>1</sup> Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property.

# Acts 4.36 – 5.11

<sup>2</sup> 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.

# Acts 4.36 – 5.11

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?

# Acts 4.36 – 5.11

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 just to human beings but to God."

# Acts 4.36 – 5.11

<sup>5</sup> When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened.

# Acts 4.36 – 5.11

<sup>6</sup> Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.



# Acts 4.36 – 5.11

<sup>7</sup> About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

# Acts 4.36 – 5.11

<sup>8</sup> Peter asked her, “Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?”

“Yes,” she said, “that is the price.”

## Acts 4.36 – 5.11

<sup>9</sup> Peter said to her, “How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.”

# Acts 4.36 – 5.11

<sup>10</sup> 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.

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Great Fear

# Great Fear

- Is God capricious?
  - given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behavior

# Great Fear (options)

# Great Fear

- We can dismiss the story as myth
  - Some scholars – OT and NT different Gods

# Great Fear

Proverbs 1.7

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of  
knowledge,  
but fools despise wisdom and  
instruction.”

# Great Fear

I John 4.8

“There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear.”



# Examples of Fear

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- Moses (Deut. 9.20; Heb. 12.21)  
“I am trembling with fear.”
- Isaiah (Is. 6.5)  
“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”

# Examples of Fear

- Peter (Luke 5)

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- Peter (Luke 5)

<sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

- Anyone who has encountered an angel.

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- We can explain it away as to make God more to our liking.

# Great Fear

- We can dismiss the story as myth,
- We can explain it away as to make God more to our liking.
- We can rediscover what the early church did . . . FEAR.



# Great Fear

- What are we to do with the FEAR when it comes to God?
- What is the Fear of the Lord?

# What is the Fear of the Lord?

Proverbs 1.7

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of  
knowledge,  
but fools despise wisdom and  
instruction.”

# What is the Fear of the Lord?

Is. 33.5-6

<sup>5</sup> The Lord is exalted, for He dwells on high;  
He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness.

<sup>6</sup> And He will be the stability of your times,  
A wealth of salvation, wisdom and knowledge;  
The fear of the Lord is his treasure.

# What is the Fear of the Lord?

Ps. 19.9

The fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever.

The decrees of the LORD are firm,  
and all of them are righteous.

What is the Fear of the Lord?

# What is the Fear of the Lord?

- Reverence

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- Awe

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- Reverence
- Awe
- Sublime



# Sublime

“The sublime is one of the main categories of classical aesthetics, . . . as a result of which the subject experiences a complex sense of admiration, delight, awe and simultaneously fear, horror, sacred flutter in front of an object that exceeds his perception and understanding.”

(from [simplephilosophy.com](http://simplephilosophy.com))

# What is the Fear of the Lord?

- Reverence
- Awe
- Sublime
- Eyes Wide Opened

# What is the Fear of the Lord?

- Reverence
- Awe
- Sublime
- Eyes Wide Opened
  - Listen and pay attention

But, God's actions are not  
the real problem in this  
passage.

- How and when do I do religious even right things but hold back from God?

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- When am I worshiping with less than all of me?

- How and when do I do religious even right things but hold back from God?
- When am I worshiping with less than all of me?
- Where are we going through the motions?

# What to do...

- Give thanks that we usually experience the love-side of the coin.



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- Give thanks that we usually experience the love-side of the coin.
- Confess the attitude that we often do things while at some level thinking it doesn't matter to God, or God doesn't notice.

# What to do...

- Give thanks that we usually experience the love-side of the coin.
- Confess the attitude that our actions are usually about thinking it doesn't matter to God, or God doesn't notice.
- Rediscover the Fear of the Lord

# What to do...

- Give thanks that we usually experience the love-side of the coin.
- Confess the attitude that our actions are usually about thinking it doesn't matter to God, or God doesn't notice.
- Rediscover the Fear of the Lord
- Surrender more.



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