

7.25.2010 Pentecost 9 – St. Stephen Lutheran (West Bay) Mountain View, CA

Children's Sermon: A big sin verses a little sin... key word – sin. SOS 1 John 1:7-10

Intro/Background: [Mask] "I'm happy to see you today." "I love you." ??? Can you tell?

Acts 1-4: Ascension, Pentecost, persecution, and growth (evid. of Christian love: **4:32-37**)

Contrast text: first early NT account of... evil from *within* early church (Ananias & Sapphira)

SERMON (NIV) Acts 5:1-11 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.

Theme: Church: "A Gathering of Believers"

1. An example "taken" from the gathering

- a. Does the punishment fit the crime? -crime? - a lie (worldly perspective-No!)
- b. Consider (at young age) masters-whining/lying ("little white lie?") **John 8:44**
 - i. Who had their lie hurt? –V3 H.S. (Hmwk/Lip service.) **Matt 15:7-8**
 - ii. Holy Spirit reveals hearts... love of money/greed **1 Tim 6:6-10**
- c. Ananias/Sapphira –Hypocrites..."actor with a mask," covers up with a show
 - i. Didn't have to donate their land **Matt 5:37**
 - ii. Desired...money (same time) praise from believers (return wallet?)
 - iii. Ignoble motives... **V9** "test, challenge" –not fruit of faith (offering?)
 - iv. Their example... **Rom 6:23a** not only temporal death, but eternal

Trans: But in the midst of this deception, the Lord had something to teach His real followers

2. Lessons learned by the believers (lessons for us!)

- a. **Theme...** this stern example: literally... "taken out" of gathering **2 Tim 2:19**
 - i. Church (invisible) = all believers all time/have saving faith in Christ
 - ii. church (visible) = groups of believers who confess the same thing
- b. **V5** a warning... devil at work among them/sin not taken lightly **V5 Rom 6:23**
 - i. **V11** "Fear..." for everyone else...terror/dread **V4** true God –Triune!
 - ii. **V5** "Fear..." for believers...respect/awe/just **Gal 6:7-8** eternal life
 - iii. HS knows all...good! **Psalms Ps 51:1-4** mercy/sin/forgiveness

App: Think of text... (action + attitude) **Matt 6:1-4** – Theme... not men-pleasers, but God

Sum: [mask] Church...gathering of non mask wearers (sinners), gathering for God's mercy!

This peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard and keep your hearts and minds in our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen!

Acts 4:32-37 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need. And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

John 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Matthew 15:7-8 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.

1 Timothy 6:6-10 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Matt 5:37 Let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Romans 6:23a For the wages of sin is death...

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Galatians 6:7-8 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Psalms 51:1-4 Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight -- That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.

Matthew 6:1-4 Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. "Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. "But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, "that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly."

Children's Sermon: A big sin verses a little sin... key word – sin. SOS 1 John 1:7-10

Intro/Background:

Acts 1-4:

Contrast text: first early NT account of...

SERMON (NIV) Acts 5:1-11 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.

Theme: Church: "A Gathering of Believers"

1. An example "taken" from the gathering

- c. Does the punishment fit the crime? -
- d. Consider (at young age) masters-
 - i. Who had their lie hurt? –V3
 - ii. Holy Spirit reveals hearts...
- e. Ananias/Sapphira –Hypocrites...
- f. Didn't have to donate their land **Matt 5:37**
 - i. Desired...
 - ii. Ignoble motives... V9
 - iii. Their example...

Trans: But in the midst of this deception, the Lord had something to teach His real followers

2. Lessons learned by the believers (lessons for us!)

- g. **Theme...** this stern example: literally...
 - i. Church (invisible) =
 - ii. church (visible) =
- h. V5 a warning...
 - i. V11 "Fear..."
 - ii. V5 "Fear..."
 - iii. HS knows all...

App: Think of text... (action + attitude) **Matt 6:1-4** – Theme...

Sum: [mask] Church...gathering of

This peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard and keep your hearts and minds in our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen!

Acts 4:32-37 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need. And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

John 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Matthew 15:7-8 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.

1 Timothy 6:6-10 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Matt 5:37 Let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Romans 6:23a For the wages of sin is death...

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Galatians 6:7-8 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Psalms 51:1-4 Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight -- That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.

Matthew 6:1-4 Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. "Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. "But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, "that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly."