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The First Death in the Church

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THE FIRST DEATH IN THE CHURCH

Acts 5:1-11

Setting: Time of great excitement in Jer. Church growing.

Characters: Christians, all new, some strong, some weak.

INT: Plot: Treating a divine organ like human organization.

Moral: A warning. God is not mocked. Galatians 6:7.

I. FIRST INTERNAL TROUBLE IN THE CHURCH ENDED IN TRAGEDY.

1. Warning: No one in the church above further sin.
 - a. Epitaph: Here lie the first to lie to God; they have their reward beneath this sod.
2. Possible for Christians to underestimate horror of sin.
 - a. Little lie. Little theft. Little gossip. Still sin.
3. Their sins common. Pride of life - lust of the flesh.
4. Judge sin by its consequences. Sin of lying terrible.

II. PRELUDE TO THE TRAGIC ONE-ACT DRAMA.

1. Many Jews still attending the Apostle's school. 6th
2. Provisions brought only for Pentecost observance. Sivan.
3. True converts gave their possessions as well as selves.
4. Eyes of church and world focused on such unselfishness.
5. Ananias and Sapphira wanted to be recognized - praised.

III. THE UNFOLDING OF THE PLOT.

1. Started out with good intentions. Mk. 4:19.
2. Sin entered with elevation of self above God.
 - a. Kept back part of price. Others half their lives.
 - b. Lied to men. One sin invariable leads to another.
 - c. Lied to God. Lie to man a lie to God. Violation law.
 - d. Lied to themselves. Confident God never know.
3. When realized consequence of sin was too late.
4. Death often unexpected visitor. Always be prepared.

IV. THE WIDESPREAD RESULTS.

1. Church succeeded in an early crisis. Matt. 16:18.
2. Sin exposed and the sinners paid for their crime.
3. Philosophy of greed wrecked two more lives. I Tim. 6:10.
4. Fear came upon the church. Saved greater wreck. I T. 5:20
5. Justice-God's wrath satisfied in their death.
and families.

INV: Temptation and sin all around us. Need not be in us.

I John 2:1-2. Only escape is through Christ. B*R*C*B

Erring: Telling God truth when say doing as well out of duty as in it? Return before too late. R-P.