Acts.

The Problem of Pretense

ACTS 5:1-16

The Problem of Pretense

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

WHY IS THE PROBLEM SO DANGEROUS?

HOW CAN I IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM?

HOW DO WE SOLVE THE PROBLEM?

PRETENSE

1. An attempt to make something that is not the case appear true.
2. A claim, especially a false or ambitious one.

Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira,
also sold a piece of property.

ACTS 5:1 NIV

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

ACTS 4:36-37 NIV

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.

ACTS 5:1-2 NIV

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.”

ACTS 5:7-8 NIV

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 just to human beings but to God.”

ACTS 5:3-4 NIV

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When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. [6] Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

[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.

ACTS 5:5-6, 10-11 NIV

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others **to be seen by them**. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. [2] “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, **to be honored by others**. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

MATTHEW 6:1-2 NIV

Resume
Experience
Technical

The ego has something terribly wrong with it. It is always drawing attention to itself - it does so every single day. It is always making us think about how we look and how we are treated...It is very hard to get through a whole day without feeling snubbed or ignored or feeling stupid or getting down ourselves...The ego is also incredibly busy - busy at trying to fill the emptiness. And it is busy doing two things in particular - comparing and boasting...The ego is always putting together a résumé. Doing jobs we have no pleasure in, doing diets we take no pleasure in. Doing all kinds of things, not for the pleasure of doing them, but because we are trying to look impressive to others...Trying to recommend ourselves, trying to create a self-esteem résumé because we are desperate to fill our sense of inadequacy and emptiness.

TIM KELLER

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[8] Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias
got for the land?"

"Yes," she said, "that is the price."

ACTS 5:1-2, 8 NIV

→ **You feel the need to exaggerate.**

HOW CAN I IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM IN ME?

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.

[8] Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias
got for the land?"

"Yes," she said, "that is the price."

ACTS 5:1-2, 8 NIV

HOW CAN I IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM IN ME?

→ You feel the need to exaggerate.

→ **You hide.**

HOW CAN I IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM IN ME?

- → You feel the need to exaggerate.
- → You hide.
- → **You are quick to criticize.**

HOW CAN I IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM IN ME?

- → You feel the need to exaggerate.
- → You hide.
- → You are quick to criticize.
- → **You can’t take criticism.**

HOW CAN I IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM IN ME?

- → You feel the need to exaggerate.
- → You hide.
- → You are quick to criticize.
- → You can’t take criticism.
- → **You keep a balance sheet.**

HOW CAN I IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM IN ME?

- → You feel the need to exaggerate.
- → You hide.
- → You are quick to criticize.
- → You can’t take criticism.
- → You keep a balance sheet.
- → **You constantly compare**.

HOW CAN I IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM IN ME?

- → You feel the need to exaggerate.
- → You hide.
- → You are quick to criticize.
- → You can’t take criticism.
- → You keep a balance sheet.
- → You constantly compare.
- → **You seek control.**

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And **God's grace** was so powerfully at work in them all
34 that there were no needy persons among them.

ACTS 4:33b-34a NIV

The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less.

TIM KELLER

The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon’s Colonnade. [13] No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. [14] Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.

ACTS 5:12-14 NIV