

Sermon ~ Sunday, April 18th, 2021 by Pastor D. Benoit

Text: Acts 5: 12-16

Title: The SAVIOR not the Shadow!

Not the *Shadow*, *skia* (skee'-ah), the *shadow* of a looming presence; (figuratively) a spiritual reality (good or bad) relating to **GOD'S Light** or spiritual darkness. BUT **The SAVIOR!**

"...they brought forth the sick into the streets...that at least the *shadow* of Peter passing by might *overshadow* some of them." (Acts 5: 15)

Not the *Shadow*—every *shadow* was not the *Shadow* of Peter.

It took *two things* to make Peter's Shadow—**The LIGHT** and, Peter's presence.

Wherever Peter went *walking* in **The LIGHT**, he carried with him **The Influence** of his *Shadow*.

Every **CHRISTian**, *walking* in **The LIGHT of GOD** and **JESUS, The CHRIST**, will have **The Influence** of his *Shadow* accompanying them.

Those who walk in the darkness of *selfish doubt* will carry no healing virtue with their presence.

The *sick* will not be **SAVED**. The spiritually uncleaned will not be **DELIVERED**.

The SAVIOR not the Shadow!

This year of separation has been very *trying* and *testing*! I'm *listening* to **The VOICE of our GOD**, as to *what* to say and do next." I'm *trusting* in **The WORD of GOD**, knowing **HIS revelations** never fail. I'm *determined to obey HIM*, knowing that someone else will be blessed.

Yet while here, *listen* and *look* with me, at this *inspiring text*, anticipating our coming together soon.

KNOW this, **The SPIRIT-Filled Church** (you and I) must remain *unified*— "all with one accord," (v. 12b); *magnified* (v. 13b) and "*multiplied*" (v. 14). Though, Satan is still attacking the believers (you and me), and as he does, we must be mindful of his *dual program*— "*Deception from within*" and "*Persecution from without*."

--The *Problems* from within takes us back to the opening verses of this text (Acts 5: 1-11).

Here we see Satan operating as the Serpent (Genesis 3: 1), using counterfeit believers within The Assembly, to hinder **The Work of The LORD**.

The Deception (vss. 1, 2), it seems that Ananias and Sapphira wanted a reputation for being *more spiritual* than they were. When others brought their donations (Acts 4: 34-37), by their actions, they seemed *jealous* and wanted the same recognition. Please keep in mind that their *sin* was NOT stealing money from **GOD**, because Peter states in verse 4, "that it was in their own power to use the money as they wished." Their *sin* was HYPOCRISY, trying to appear *more spiritual* than they were.

The Discovery (vss. 3, 4). The Apostle Peter, filled with **The SPIRIT of Discernment**, exercises **The Gift** of "binding and loosing" given to him by **CHRIST** (Matthew 16: 19) and points out the *sin*. Ananias and Sapphira had not mention anything openly, but the terrible *sin* was in their hearts.

They had *lied* to **The SPIRIT of GOD, WHO** was *graciously* working in the believers' hearts, leading them to sell their belongings and share with others in need.

The Deaths (vss. 5-11). This was not a case of "Church discipline", but **GOD Divine Judgment**.

The kind of Judgment **CHRIST** will exercise during **The Coming KINGdom**.

The Testimony (vss. 12-16). **The Church** (**CHRISTian** believers) were *unified, magnified, and multiplied*. This will always happen when **The Assembly** (our coming together) is "purged of *sin*."

Satan works *inside* **The Church-house** and tries to *divide* it (us), *disgrace* **GOD**, and *destroy* **The JOY** of our Salvation, BUT if we allow **The SPIRIT to Work**, we will detect **HIS operation** and avoid **Church problems**.

"And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people..." (Acts 5: 12)

GOD gave the Apostles power to perform great miracles. These "*signs and wonders*" were **GOD'S Way** of authenticating their mission and ministry. These *mighty wonders* that **GOD** through the Apostles was fulfillment of our **LORD'S Promise** "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on **ME**, the works that **I** do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because **I** go unto **MY FATHER**." When **JESUS** performed miracles during **HIS** ministry on earth, **HIS purposes** were: 1. to *show COMpassion* and meet human need; 2. to *present HIS* credentials as **The SON of GOD**; and 3. to convey spiritual truth.

[The Apostolic miracles followed a similar pattern. Like with Peter and John, and the healing of "the crippled," (Act 3: 1-6), Peter saw it as an opportunity to *preach JESUS, The SAVIOR* and to prove to the people and the council that he and John were indeed the servants of **The Living CHRIST**. One of the qualifications for an Apostle was that he had seen **The Risen CHRIST** (Acts 1: 22; I Corinthians 9: 1), and since "*nobody*" can claim that experience today; there are no Apostles in **The Church**. The Apostles laid the foundation for **The CHURCH** (Ephesians 2: 20), and evangelists, the pastors, teachers, are building on it. (Eph. 4: 11) If there are no Apostles, there can be no "signs of an Apostle" as are found in The Book of Acts (2 Corinthians 12: 12).]

The SAVIOR not the Shadow!

Peter and the other Apostles found themselves ministering as their **LORD** had ministered, with people coming from all over, bringing their sick and afflicted. It is significant that

"all of these people were healed," "and they were healed every one." (Acts 5: 16c)

There were no failures, and nobody was sent away because he or she "did not have faith to be healed." These were days of *mighty power* when **GOD** was speaking through His Apostles and **GOD** gave *signs* to and through them.

The most important thing was not *the healing of the afflicted*, but "the winning of lost souls," as *multitudes* were added to **The Church**. **The SPIRIT** gave them *Power for wonders* and *Power for witnessing* (Acts 1: 8, "But ye shall receive power, after that **The HOLY GHOST** is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto **ME** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.") For miracles apart from **The WORD of GOD** cannot save the lost. The greatest miracle is "the transformation of the lost *sinner* into a child of **GOD** by **The Grace of GOD!**"

That is the miracle that meets the greatest need, lasts the longest (Everlasting), and costs the greatest Price—*The Blood of JESUS CHRIST* on the *Cross of Calvary*, *HIS dying*, being *buried* and *GOD raising* from the Dead— “...*The Power of GOD* unto salvation to every one that believeth.” (Romans 1: 16)

Oh, it is **JESUS!** Yes, it is **JESUS!**
It is **JESUS** in my soul; for I have touched the hem of **HIS** garment,
and **HIS Blood** has made me whole.

Oh, it is **JESUS!** Yes, it is **JESUS!**
LORD it is **JESUS** in my soul. It is **JESUS**, in my soul.
For I have touched the hem of **HIS** garment,
Touched the hem of **HIS** garment and **HIS Blood** has made me whole.

I have tried it all that I could,
seems like nothing did me any good, then I heard **JESUS**,
HE was passing by then I decided to give **HIM** a try, and oh it is **JESUS...**

It is **JESUS!** Yes, it is **JESUS!**
It is **JESUS**, it is **JESUS** in my soul, in my soul,
For I have touched the hem of **HIS** garment,
All I had to do was touch, touch, the hem of **HIS** garment,
And **HIS Blood** has made me whole.
And **HIS Blood**, made me whole.

Yes, my **JESUS**; well then, **HE** healed my body.
When I was crying, when I was blue,
For I have touched the hem of **HIS** garment,
Touched the hem of **HIS** garment, and **HIS Blood** has made me whole.
And **HIS Blood**, made me whole.

I said, **HIS Blood**, made me whole.
I said, **HIS Blood**, made me whole!

(Andrae Crouch)