

Study of Acts 5
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Acts 5:1-42

In *Acts 4* we saw that all the people sold their possessions and brought the money to the Apostles to have them distribute the wealth where and when it was needed.

Here in *Acts 5* we see the heart of two individuals who did ***NOT TRUST*** Elohim. The act of these two individuals is no ordinary act of mistrust. I assume that these two individuals had witnessed the ministry of Messiah for 3 1/2 years. If that is the case then they saw Him crucified and die a horrible death on the cross in ours and their stead. Then they also saw Him as the resurrected Messiah and they spent 40 days under His teaching and finally they saw Messiah being taken up to Heaven in the clouds and they saw and heard the two messengers of YHVH talk to them and reassure them that Messiah ***WOULD RETURN*** in the same manner and place from which He left. (*If they were not there to personally witness all of these events, then they had a personal relationship and the testimony with those who did.*)

Now a short period later, Ananias and Sapphira conspire together to keep some of the money that they received when they sold their possessions. The sin they committed was not that they kept some of the money from the sale of their property, because after all it was their property and their money. The sin they committed was in ***LYING*** to the Apostles and telling them that they ***WERE*** indeed giving them ***ALL*** the money they had received from the sale of their property. Had they told the Apostles the truth and said that they were keeping some of the money for themselves, I do not believe they would have suffered the fate that they did. I believe that people would have witnessed their lack of trust and known that they ***DID NOT FULLY TRUST ELOHIM***; but I don't believe that they would have died. However they conspired together ***TO LIE*** about the amount they were giving ***BECAUSE*** they wanted all the people to believe that they ***TOO HAD GIVEN ALL OF THEIR POSSESSIONS*** while they truly hadn't. It appears that they wanted ***THE GLORY WITHOUT THE SACRIFICE*** and that was totally unacceptable to Elohim.

So what do we learn from this story? We learn that when we make a Vow, ***we are not to vow FALSELY***. A person cannot dedicate something to Elohim and then take it back. You don't have to make a Vow unto YHVH to start with, ***BUT*** once you ***DO***, you ***MUST*** follow through with your Vow. After these events, it says that great fear came upon the people of the assembly and all those that heard the story.

How about you? ***IF YOU SAW*** someone drop dead before your eyes ***BECAUSE THEY LIED***, do you think it would make you think twice about lying in the future?

Since the congregation had either witnessed or heard that both Ananias and Sapphira had died ***BECAUSE*** they lied, it says in *verse 11* that *great fear came on all the church and on all those hearing these things*.

It goes on to say that by the hands of the Apostles many other signs and wonders were performed and that they were **ALL** of one accord in the Temple, in Solomon's porch. It says that no one dared to be joined to the Apostles for fear that they too would die, **BUT** the people magnified the Apostles, and that **BECAUSE** of these signs and wonders many believers were added to Messiah, to the living Word.

The people so believed in the power that was shown through the Apostles that they lined the streets with sick people on beds and couches so that at least the shadow of Peter would fall on them and they would be healed. People came from all over and brought their sick with them to be healed and the Scripture tells us that they were **ALL** healed, one by one.

Why is that? Why were they **ALL** healed? **AND WHY DON'T WE SEE MUCH OF THAT HAPPEN TODAY?**

We don't see it happen today because very few are being obedient to YHVH's Commandments His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life as the Apostles obeyed and **DID**, and even less have made the commitment to rid themselves of all their earthly possession in order to serve Elohim exclusively. Oh, we talk a good game, but very few **IF** any live it as the Apostles did, and until we do, we will not see the type of healing that they saw in the time described in *verse 16 of Acts 5*.

The religious leaders of the day were very jealous of what the Apostles were doing because it won over the hearts of the people, and they arrested them and put them in jail. But the Holy Spirit of YHVH opened the prison door and brought the Apostles out of prison and told them to go and teach all the **WORDS** of this **LIFE** in the Temple. The **WORDS** of this Life is a metaphor for the inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions of YHVH, His Torah of Life. Therefore what **LIFE** were they to teach on? They were to teach on the Torah obedient **LIFE**.

In the meantime, the priest had called the council together and all the senate to decide what to do with these people they had put in prison. When they sent for the prisoners they found the jail all locked up but the prisoners were gone. Then it was told to the priests that the men that were in prison were now teaching in the Temple.

The High Priest sent his captain to arrest them and bring them back before him. You know that **IF** Messiah does tarry that this type of treatment might become a fact in our lifetime, where **WE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TEACH** the inerrant and everlasting Torah of our heavenly Father, and furthermore **WE MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO DO OR KEEP THE SABBATH**. How do you think you will react in those days? As always it is best to plan ahead and resolve in your mind what **YOU WILL DO** under those circumstances, **NOW, TODAY**.

Now when they were in front of the council, the High Priest said, *Did we not command you **NOT** to teach in His Name, meaning Yeshua? But you have **NOT** listened and you have filled Jerusalem with your **DOCTRINE** and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.*

This is a very telling verse because **IF** the Apostles **WERE** indeed teaching the inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions of YHVH, they were teaching His Torah of **LIFE**, the Father's **DOCTRINE**, then when these religious leaders say in *verse 28* that the Apostles are filling Jerusalem with **THEIR DOCTRINE** it means that the Apostle's **DOCTRINE**, the **TORAH** of Moses that they were teaching **WAS** different than the **DOCTRINE** that these religious leaders, the Pharisees and Sadducees were teaching which means that they were **NOT** teaching the Father's pure, inerrant and everlasting Torah of Life

There are a few other things that I also want to bring out here. First of all, regardless of fact that the leaders of the religious system of the day had warned and commanded these men **NOT TO PREACH AND TEACH** the Word of YHVH, they went ahead and preached YHVH's Word **ANYWAY**. They knew the consequences of disobeying the High Priest's order, but they preached Messiah's **DOCTRINE ANYWAY**. I want you also to see that they had **FILLED** Jerusalem with their **DOCTRINE** and again we have established in the past that the Apostle's **DOCTRINE** was Messiah's **DOCTRINE** and Messiah's **DOCTRINE** was not His own, but it was the **DOCTRINE** of the **ONE** that sent Him. In other words the **DOCTRINE** that the Apostles were teaching in the Temple was the Torah of the Most High Elohim, given to Moses at Mount Sinai. The council said, *you intend to bring this man's blood upon us*. In other words, religious leaders had no remorse whatsoever and they felt no guilt or shame for what they had done in lashing, punishing and finally crucifying Yeshua the Messiah until He died on the Cross.

How can it be, that they actually put to death the Messiah that they were waiting for? I believe this is spoken of in *1 Corinthians 2:8 ...which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory*.

This verse has been used to say that the devil **IS** the one that put Messiah on the cross, but I believe that this speaks of the council of priests that were in charge at the time of Messiah's death. Their evil hearts were so hardened that these princes of the religious system of the day **ARE** who put the Messiah to death. We have to understand that it is **NOT** the Jews that put Messiah to death **IT IS** the **EVIL SPIRIT OF RELIGION**, man made religion that put Him to death. While the devil, satan, may have influenced the religious leaders of the day, **IT IS** man and his man made religion, His man made **DOCTRINE** that put Messiah to death.

The people of YHVH had strayed so far away from the **TRUTH**, the Torah of Moses, that they did not recognize the signs that had been prophesied, the pictures that the Word of Elohim, His Torah had clearly painted, showing the coming of the Saviour of Israel. They missed that blessed event and **NOT** only did they miss it, they found themselves denying it to the point of putting the Prophesied Messiah to death.

Let us not make the same mistake of not knowing who Messiah **IS**, in order that we do **NOT** end up denying the fulness of Messiah, the fulness of the Living Torah of our heavenly Father, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions **MADE FLESH**, as they did when Messiah first came to earth as the suffering servant, for when He returns the Scriptures tell us that He will be coming back as a conquering king destroying **ALL** of His detractors and permanently establishing the kingdom of

Elohim for His people Israel here on earth. Let us therefore resolve in our hearts to obey Him **TODAY**, so that none of the numbers in our *paint by number* picture of the **TRUTH**, the Torah, will some how be changed in our understanding, **BUT** that instead they will all remain in tact for us to actually connect the dots and paint the picture that YHVH intended us to see and therefore recognize all the signs that He has given us. YHVH says that He doesn't do anything without first revealing it to His saints. **YOU ARE** His **SAINT**, **IF** you **willingly and lovingly choose** to **KEEP, OBEY, and DO** His Torah with a loving surrendered obedient heart.

We therefore **MUST** resolve in our hearts to answer as Peter answered in *verse 29 We ought to obey Elohim rather than men*. He didn't stop there; he went on and accused the religious leaders saying, *The Elohim of our fathers raised up Yeshua, whom YOU SLEW and hanged on a tree. Him, has Elohim exalted with His right Hand, a prince and a Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins and we are witnesses of these things, and SO IS ALSO THE HOLY SPIRIT WHOM ELOHIM HAS GIVEN TO THEM THAT OBEY.* When our Christian brethren read these verses, they seem to think that the emphasis is on Yeshua, but **IF** you read this carefully **IT IS** evident that these verses focus on the Father and the work that He has done and continues to do through His Son, the Living Word, the Living Torah made flesh.

In *verse 31, Him has Elohim exalted with His Right Hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, in order to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.* The words **TO BE** are inserted and I think that this takes away from the work that Messiah did. When you say **to be** a prince and a Saviour that means that before that time Yeshua was **NOT** a prince and a Saviour, and that is **factually WRONG**. Furthermore it takes away from His surrendered life here on earth. Messiah was our Saviour from the beginning of time. It also seems to support those that believe that Messiah was just a man and that He became our Messiah after His death.

Verse 32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Spirit, whom Elohim HAS GIVEN to them that OBEY HIM. First of all this supports what we have learned from Scripture in *Ezekiel 36:26-27* and that **IS** that the Holy Spirit was given to us to **CAUSE** every willing surrendered heart to lovingly **OBEY** YHVH's Commandments, YHVH's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, for YHVH knows people's hearts. We can also deduce from these words that **IF** a person **DOES NOT OBEY** our Elohim and willingly **FOLLOW** and **OBEY** His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, **THEN** that means that Elohim's Holy Spirit will **NOT** be given to that person. Please understand the serious implications of this statement, **ANYONE that DOES NOT FOLLOW and WILLINGLY and LOVINGLY OBEY** the Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, **IS NOT FILLED** with the Holy Spirit of our heavenly Father, which means that that person **IS** therefore filled with **ANOTHER** spirit instead. Please think of the serious implication of this biblical **TRUTH!**

From *verse 33 When they heard that, THEY WERE CUT TO THE HEART, and TOOK COUNSEL TO SLAY THEM.* If we were to apply what these religious leaders said to Peter and John, in today's vernacular, it would be something like this; **HOW DARE YOU SAY** that we do **NOT** have the Holy

Spirit within us, for we **ARE** directed by the Holy Spirit in everything we do. We have to realize that no matter how often these religious leaders say and affirm that they are walking with and by the Holy Spirit of YHVH, **IF** they are **NOT KEEPING, DOING** and willingly **FOLLOWING** YHVH's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, which is **WHY** the Holy Spirit of YHVH **IS** given to anyone according to *Ezekiel 36:26-27* and *Acts 5:32*, **THEN** they may be walking in and by **a** spirit, **BUT it is NOT** the Holy Spirit of YHVH, **IT IS** another spirit, and I will let you decide what and or who that other spirit might be.

From *verse 33* on, the text tells us that the Pharisees wanted to kill Peter because he taught the Pure Torah of YHVH, the inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions of YHVH, His directives for everlasting Life, and **NOT** the teachings or doctrines of the Rabbis, the religious leaders of the day. A man named Gamaliel stood up and warned them to be careful of what they intended to do to these men, meaning Peter and John. Gamaliel explained that there had been others before Paul that professed to be of Elohim but their ways came to nothing. His advice to the Pharisees was to leave them alone, for **IF** their work **IS NOT** of YHVH, **IT WILL** come to nothing; **BUT IF IT IS FROM** Elohim, **THEN** they would find themselves contending with Elohim Himself.

The Pharisees reluctantly agreed with Gamaliel's counsel and they called the Apostles to come into their presence. They had the Apostles beaten and commanded them **NOT** to speak in the name of Yeshua and then they let them go.

Now *verse 41* **IS** hard to explain **IF** you don't have a close relationship with our Heavenly Father. It says that the Apostles **REJOICED**. They **REJOICED** in their minds **BECAUSE** they were counted *worthy* to suffer in His Name. I don't know about you, but my flesh does not like to be beaten, and when I hear that the Apostles **REJOICED** to be counted worthy to suffer in that manner for our Saviour, I don't know how I would react to being beaten for what I believe in. I hope that I too would rejoice and count myself worthy to suffer for my Messiah and because of my Saviour, my Messiah.

The Chapter ends with the words that they were daily in the temple and in every house, where they did **NOT CEASE** to teach and preach Messiah Yeshua, Preach the Pure Torah of Moses made flesh, the Living Word of Elohim.

We absolutely **MUST** understand that Yeshua, our Messiah **IS** the Living Word of YHVH, His Torah, made **FLESH**, and as such He **IS** the Living **TRUTH, and TRUTH, IS** eternal and since **TRUTH in** Scripture **IS** a synonym for **TORAH, Psalm 119:142**, then that means that the Torah **IS ALSO ETERNAL**. Therefore we have to understand and believe the Scriptures, we have to believe and understand that Peter and Paul **LIVED AND TAUGHT** the Torah of Moses. Therefore what these Apostles lived and taught every day of their lives was the Torah of Elohim given to and preserved by Moses. This **TRUTH** that Paul and all the Apostles **OBEYED** and **WILLINGLY FOLLOWED** the Torah of Moses **IS** pointed out very clearly in *Acts 21:20-24* *And when Paul had saluted them, he declared particularly what things Elohim had done among the Gentiles by his ministry. And when they heard it, they glorified YHVH, and said unto him, You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are WHO BELIEVE; and THEY ARE ALL ZEALOUS OF THE TORAH, THE LAW: And they have been informed of you Paul, that you teach ALL the Jews which are among the Gentiles TO FORSAKE (THE TORAH) OF MOSES, saying that they ought NOT*

TO circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs. What is it therefore? The multitude **MUST** of a need come together: for they will **hear** that you Paul are come. Do therefore this that we say to you Paul: We have four men which have a (Nazarite) vow on them; Take them, and purify yourself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and **ALL MAY KNOW** that those things, whereof they were informed **CONCERNING YOU, ARE NOTHING; BUT THAT YOU YOURSELF** also **WALK ORDERLY,** and **KEEP THE TORAH, THE LAW of MOSES.**

And in Acts 24:14-16 But this I confess unto you, that after the way which the religious leaders call heresy, so worship I the Elohim of my fathers, **BELIEVING ALL THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN THE LAW, THE TORAH AND IN THE PROPHETS:** And have hope toward Elohim, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. And herein do I exercise myself, **TO HAVE ALWAYS A CONSCIENCE VOID OF OFFENCE (void of Torahlessness) TOWARD ELOHIM AND TOWARD MEN.**

The only way to have this state of mind **IS** to be totally surrendered to YHVH who then fills us with His Holy Spirit, who **IS** then **TASKED** and **COMMANDED** By YHVH to **CAUSE** every loving, surrendered and willing obedient heart to obey the Father's Torah of Life, in other words the Father's Holy Spirit **WILL** cause every surrendered willing heart to **KEEP, OBEY and DO** the Torah of Moses. **WE HAVE TO REALIZE AND UNDERSTAND** that the whole book of Acts supports the Torah of YHVH and affirms **ALL** the teachings found within the Torah. **IF** Messiah and **ALL** the Apostles **BELIEVE, KEEP, DO, TEACH and AFFIRM** the everlasting Torah of YHVH, **THEN** we ought to do the same Amein

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought, and your every deed. Until we meet again, שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם, Shalom Aleykem. Amein!