

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 5 1-11



Blessed are those whose way is pure, who walk in the law of the Lord.
Blessed are those who keep his testimonies and seek him with their whole heart.
Psalm 119:1-2

Praising:

Give to our God immortal praise, mercy and truth are all his ways; wonders of grace to God belong; repeat his mercies in your song.

Reading:

Acts 5:1-11
A sacrifice pretended

Whether they drop dead out of sheer physical fear or are in some sense struck down by God, Ananias and Sapphira have evidently committed a grave sin. There's more to it than feeling hesitant about surrendering all the proceeds from the field. A pang of apprehension once the cash was actually in their hands would only have been human. But it would seem that in the first-century spiritual scheme of things, to make an offering to the Church is to make an offering

directly to God. In secretly holding back part of the gift but pretending that they are giving everything, Ananias and Sapphira are being dishonest to the Lord himself. They delude themselves about who God is, and about who they are before God. In doing so they make a system error from which there is no going back.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord save us from every temptation not to trust in your divine provision

- when it comes to giving, open our hearts and our hands to be generous
- when it comes to serving, lay our tasks before us and show us what to do
- when it comes to following, pick us up and put us down again as you will

Father: save me from myself; save me from every anxious urge to self-preservation; save me from any tendency to think that I could ever disguise who I truly am before you. Amen

Doing:

Monday, 18 April 2016