

In Acts chapter 5 we read the tragic story of Ananias and Sapphira, who thought they could impress the early disciples with their generosity by lying about what they had given to the church. They had sold a piece of land for a certain price and had given part of it to Peter, saying that they had given everything. But Paul, through the Holy Spirit knew their sin and rebuked them, and their life was then taken from them. Now there may have been others who were also not truthful, but God chose to make an example of Ananias and Sapphira, and since God did it, this sort of destroys the idea that making an example of someone is unfair.

The name 'Ananias' itself is very interesting. It means 'Jehovah is gracious'. Just think about that! {Irony!} His very name showed that God had given him so much, and yet he had chosen to be selfish with it, and to lie about it. God has also been gracious to us, in giving us so many things which make our life easier, happier, and more fulfilling. But the principle of Ananias still works today. There are those of us who make a great show of being at the worship, saying: 'Lord, I give my all to you,' knowing full well that on Monday morning we will be our same old nasty self again. We want people to think that we gave our whole week to God, and yet we kept a portion of it for ourselves. We need today the spirit of involvement that was typical of most of the Christians of the first century, which indeed helped them to evangelize their world. Are you involved with Christ? If you are, you need to be: If you need public help, then come as we stand and sing this song: while we wait to help you.