

FOUR WAYS A CHURCH MAY BE TESTED

Introduction: The early church in Jerusalem was tested in four ways to make it stronger.

Lesson Aim: Learn about four areas where churches may be tested to correct any weakness.

Verse: The trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ (1 Pet 1:7).

Outline of the Lesson and Questions to Answer:

I. Purity Tested: The Sin of Ananias and Sapphira – 5:1-16

1. How did Ananias sin? 5:3-4
2. How was he punished for his sin? 5:5
3. How did Sapphira get trapped in sin? 5:2, 8
4. How did the death of Ananias and Sapphira affect the church? 5:11
5. How did the purity of the church affect unbelievers in the Jewish community? 5:13
6. How did the purity of the church affect the believers? 5:14-16

II. Loyalty Tested: The Persecution by the Government – 5:17-42

7. How did the religious leaders react to the ministry of the apostles? 5:17-18
8. How did God show the religious leaders that they mistreated the apostles? 5:19-25
9. When the religious rulers reprimanded the apostles, how did they respond? 5:27-32
10. What kept the religious leaders from killing the apostles? 5:33-40
11. What did the apostles do after they were beaten by the religious rulers? 5:41-42

III. Unity Tested: The Neglect of Grecian Widows – 6:1-8

8. What kind of men were chosen to solve the problem of the Grecian widows? 6:3, 5
9. How did these men help the apostles build the church in Jerusalem? 6:4, 7

IV. Testimony Tested: The Stoning of Stephen – 6:8-7:60

10. What kind of a man was Stephen? 6:5, 8-10
11. How did certain Jews mistreat Stephen? 6:11-14
12. How did Stephen enrage the Sadducees, who controlled the temple? 7:49-50
13. What cut the heart of the religious rulers? 7:51-53
14. What did Stephen say that infuriated the Jews? 7:55-57
15. What did Stephen say that was like Jesus' saying? 7:60; Lk 23:34