

# unfolding church

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STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

*Accompanies podcast "Discomfort" - 7/17/22  
at [www.newdaynw.com/sermons](http://www.newdaynw.com/sermons)*

## **Read Acts 5:1-11**

The story of Ananias is one of the uncomfortable passages in the Bible. What questions or concerns come to mind for you as you read these verses?

When we encounter troubling portions of Scripture we tend to either avoid them or try to "fix" them by explaining or rationalizing them away. What sections of the Bible give you the most difficulty, and which response is your more frequent go to?

In the sermon, we explored a third option, which is to allow the difficulty to be there and not force the passage to answer the question. How does such an approach feel? What does it change?

Luke does not try to give a definitive answer as to what the cause of death was for Ananias and Sapphira. Why do you think God would want to include such a complicated, sobering story in the Bible?

The sermon took the experience of this couple as a stark picture of the devastating judgment on sin that Christ bore for us and how utterly crushing it is when we try to stand on our own. In that case, this story is less about the severity of judgment and more about the magnitude of grace. Where does that thought take you?