

# Life Suckers

## *The Hypocrite*

### 1. The Cause of Hypocrisy

Acts 5:1–3 Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. <sup>2</sup> With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet. <sup>3</sup> Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? (NIV)

Matthew 15:7–8 You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: <sup>8</sup> "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." (NIV)

Matthew 15:1–2 Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, <sup>2</sup> "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!" (NIV)

Matthew 23:25 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence." (NIV)

Matthew 23:27–28 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. <sup>28</sup> In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness." (NIV)

Galatians 1:10 Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant. (NLT)

### 2. The Consequences of Hypocrisy

#### 1. We give our spiritual enemy access into our lives

Acts 5:3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? (NIV)

#### 2. We lie to the Holy Spirit

Acts 5:3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? (NIV)

### **3. We hurt ourselves**

Acts 5:5–6 When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. <sup>6</sup> Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him. (NIV)

### **4. We hurt those we love**

Acts 5:7–10 About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. <sup>8</sup> Peter asked her, “Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?” “Yes,” she said, “that is the price.” <sup>9</sup> Peter said to her, “How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.” <sup>10</sup> At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. (NIV)

### **5. We hurt the body of Christ**

Luke 17:1–2 One day Jesus said to his disciples, “There will always be temptations to sin, but what sorrow awaits the person who does the tempting! <sup>2</sup> It would be better to be thrown into the sea with a millstone hung around your neck than to cause one of these little ones to fall into sin. (NLT)

### **6. We hurt the un-churched**

## **3. The Cure from Hypocrisy**

### **1. Refocus inward**

Psalms 26:2 Test me, LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; (NIV)

Psalms 139:23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. (NIV)

Psalms 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. (NLT)

### **2. Respond to loving confrontation**

Acts 5:7–8 About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. <sup>8</sup> Peter asked her, “Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?” “Yes,” she said, “that is the price.” (NIV)

Hebrews 3:15 Remember what it says: “Today when you hear his voice, don’t harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled.” (NLT)