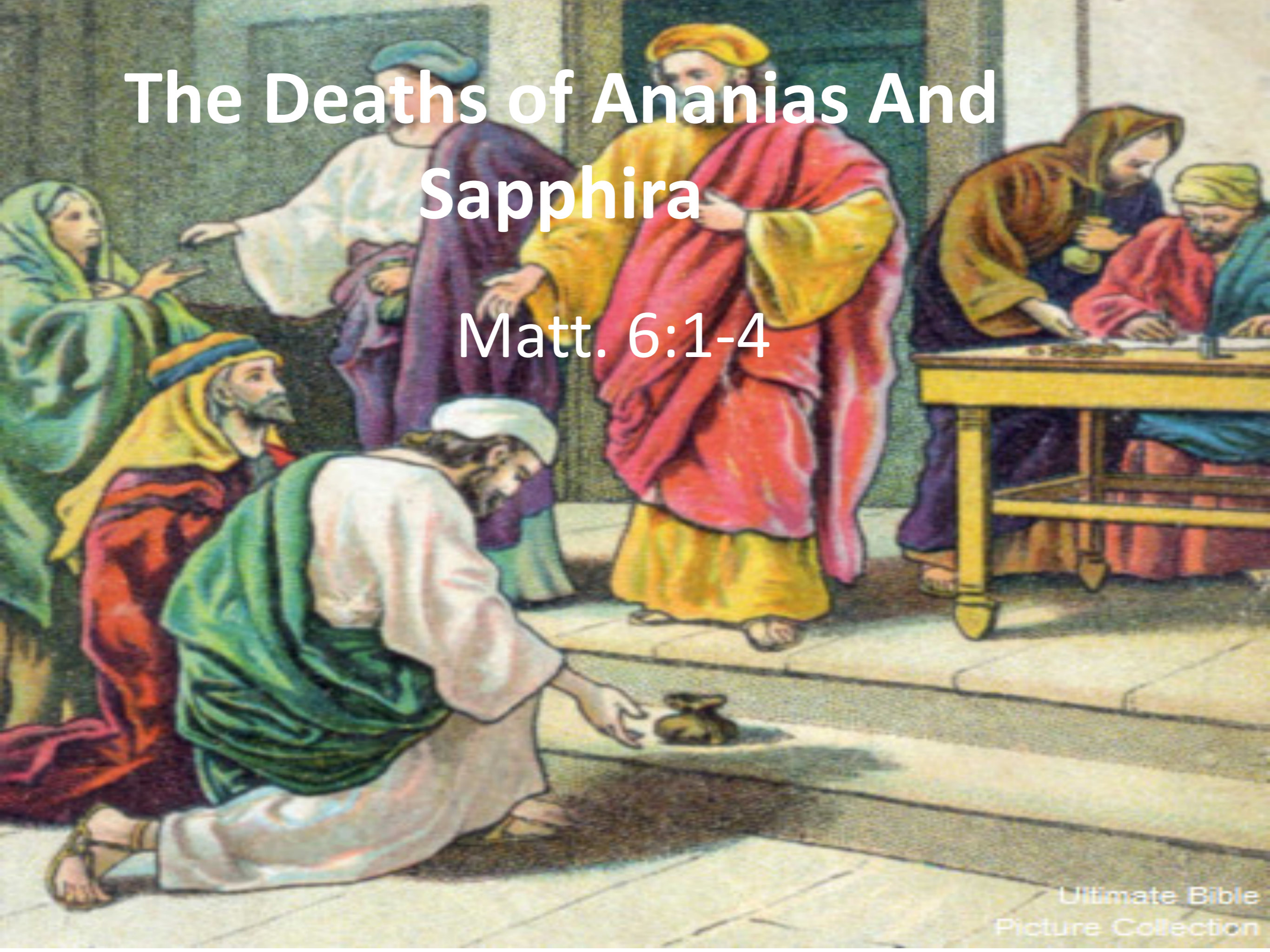


The Deaths of Ananias And Sapphira

Matt. 6:1-4



The Powerful Temptation of Hypocrisy

- Jesus had much to say about this sin:
 - Matt. 6:1-7; 16-18 → giving, praying, fasting
 - Matt. 7:1-5 → judging that sees only the sins of others.
 - Matt. 15:1-9 → mere lip service rather than service from the heart.
 - Matt. 23:1-39 → condemnation of the scribes and Pharisees... hypocrites.
- Hypocrisy is deceitful, damaging and dishonors God. (Rom. 2:17-24)
- God knows our hearts, and we need to examine our hearts. Why do we do what we do?

God Takes Sin Seriously, And So Must We

- God's view of sin is seen...
 - In the words of Peter. (Acts 5:9; Ex. 17:2,7)
 - In His definition of sin. (I Jn. 3:4; 4:17; Js. 4:17; Rom. 14:23)
 - In His description of sin. (Isa. 1:5-6; II Pet. 2:20-22)
 - In His list of specific sins. (Rom. 1:18-32; I Cor. 6:9-11; Rev. 21:8)
 - In the consequences of sin. (Ezek. 18:20; Rom. 6:23)
 - In the price paid to redeem sinners. (I Pet. 1:18-20; II Cor. 5:21)
 - The necessity of holiness. (Lev. 11:44; I Pet. 1:15-16)
 - The importance of keeping his temple holy. (I Cor. 3:16-17)

The Power To Resist Temptation

- Peter gets to the heart of the matter:
 - “why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost”, (v-3; I Pet. 5:8; Gen. 3:1-2)
 - “why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart?” (v-4)
 - Satan has the power to tempt, to entice. (Jn. 13:27)
 - But He does not make us sin -- requires our cooperation with him. (Js. 1:13-15)
 - Satan can be resisted. (Js. 4:7)
 - Building up our spiritual resistance. (Matt. 5:6; Mk. 14:38; Ps. 119:11; Phil. 4:8; I Tim. 4:7)
 - We must constantly be vigilant. (Gal. 2:11-13)
 - God will not allow us to be tempted about our ability to resist. (I Cor. 10:13)