



ASK, SEEK, KNOCK

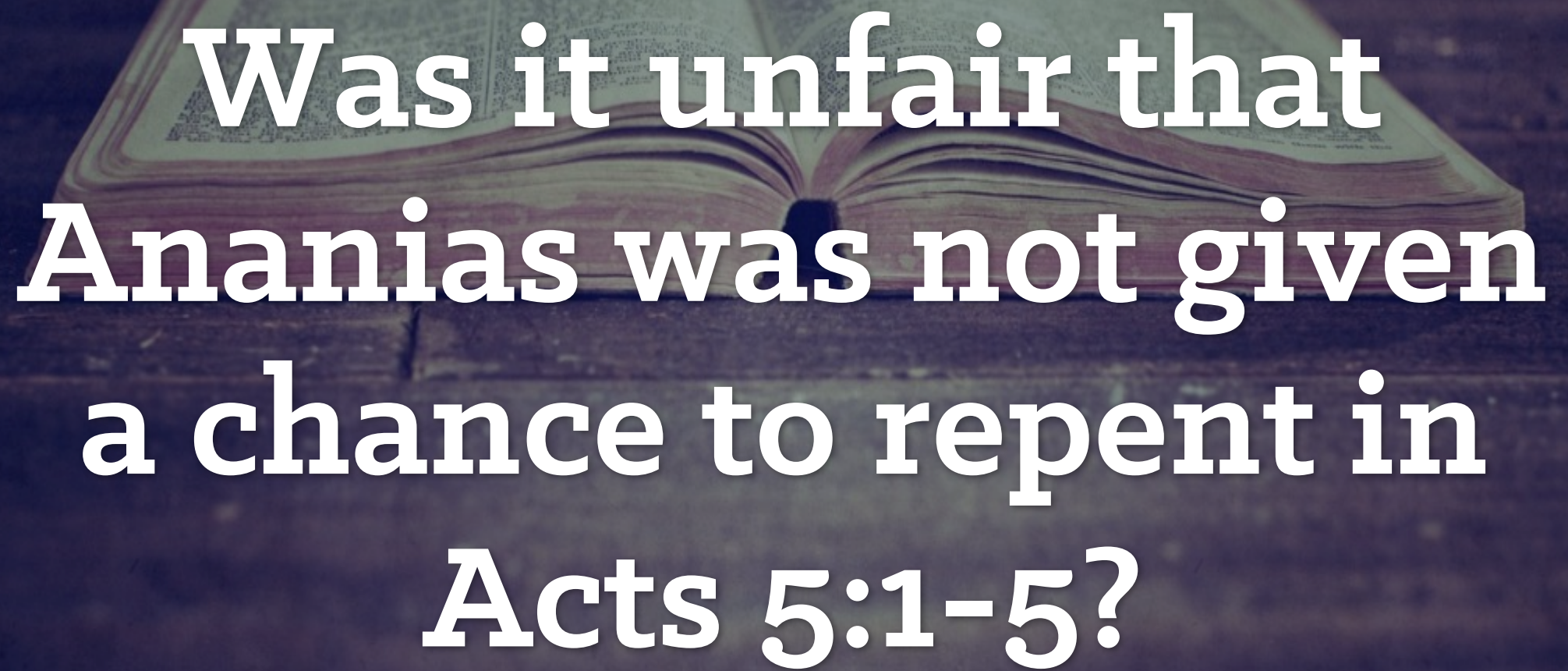
Answering your questions about
life, the Bible, and God

GETTING QUESTIONS ANSWERED

- One of our goals for 2017 is implementing and maintaining a monthly “special request sermon.” These lessons will answer unique and difficult questions that might not be addressed in any other setting. This is your opportunity to get that random curiosity satisfied, that difficult Bible passage explained, or that current event put into Biblical perspective!
- It is hard to always know what a church needs, so your questions will give our leadership a better idea of what our specific needs are and how to keep our very diverse flock well-fed.

HOW TO SUBMIT A REQUEST

- E-mail me (ryanladdy@hotmail.com)
- Ask me face-to-face (but please provide something written so I don't forget your question).
- Write down your questions and place them in the box in the foyer.
- Be anonymous if you would like, and also be as specific about the question as possible.
- Please be aware that not all questions will be answered right away. I will select the questions that can best fit the allotted time or I will save questions that are somehow connected and present them as a regular sermon.

An open book with aged, yellowed pages is shown from a top-down perspective. The book is open to a spread of text, likely a Bible. A semi-transparent dark blue rectangular box is centered over the book, containing white text. The background is dark and textured, possibly a wooden surface.

**Was it unfair that
Ananias was not given
a chance to repent in
Acts 5:1-5?**

JUDGMENT

- First, how can anybody complain about God's judgment in view of sin (Lamentations 3:39-40)? The fact is that we could make the same argument about any case of judgment, even the very first one regarding Adam and Eve. Why didn't God let them have a free pass the first time they ate the fruit?
- Instead of focusing on the fact that Ananias wasn't given unlimited chances, we should remember that what he did has always been wrong – lying! Was this the first time ever that Ananias found out lying was wrong? What about Proverbs 12:22? Or John 8:44 referring to Genesis 3:4?

THE BIGGER PICTURE

- In addition, we don't have the whole story of Ananias in this one passage. We know that God is a loving and merciful God (Psalm 103:6-14), so it simply does not fit His character to destroy anybody casually or without real cause.
- Is there more to Ananias' story than this one incident? Was he a pathological liar? Did he have a reputation for shady business practices? Did he swindle people? We don't know, but God does, and we should trust that His judgment is fair and righteous (Romans 2:4ff).

CONSEQUENCES

- Unlike her husband, Sapphira was given a chance to come clean. Sadly, she failed to appreciate the truth that nobody can lie to God.
- Rather than tearing the church in Jerusalem apart, this shocking event actually galvanized the fledgling congregation. "Great fear" came upon them (verse 11) and they moved on from the affair with a greater respect for God. They were unified (verse 12) and highly regarded by the rest of the community for their piety (verse 13). The deaths of Ananias and Sapphira might have, in some small way, contributed to the salvation of many.



Who is the
antichrist?

THE “ANTICHRIST”



THE “ANTICHRIST”

- Never appears in Revelation.
- Is not a part of God’s plan for the end of the world, along with all other premillennial ideas (1 Thess. 5:1-3).
- The Antichrist is neither supernatural nor is he political, but is described thus:
 - 1 John 2:18
 - 1 John 2:22
 - 1 John 4:3
 - 2 John 1:7
 - Anything beyond this is myth and fable.

An open Bible is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat on a dark, textured surface. The pages are aged and yellowed, with dense, small text visible. A semi-transparent dark blue horizontal band runs across the middle of the image, serving as a background for the white text. The text is centered and reads:

**Does the Bible
misquote itself?**

Do Jesus and Mark Misquote Scripture?

- John 7:38 – Criticized for not being a direct “word for word” quote. In fact, it’s a composite of Isaiah 44:3, Isaiah 55:1, and Isaiah 58:11
- Yet, don’t we do the same thing when we “quote” a law? Or summarize a novel or movie?
- Mark 1:2-3 – KJV says “in the prophets”, but newer translations attribute it to Isaiah. Who is right?
- Isaiah was the first prophet in the scroll of prophets. Mark could be speaking similar to how we say “Star Wars” or “Bill of Rights”.