

Lesson VI.

TRUE AND FALSE BROTHERHOOD

February 7, 1909

Acts 4 : 32 to 5 : 11—Memory Verses, 32, 33.

Golden Text—Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight.—Proverbs 12 : 22.



carried him out, and buried him.

7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.
8 And Pe'ter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

9 Then Pe'ter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things

32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Je'sus: and great grace was upon them all.

34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

36 And Jo'ses, who by the apostles was surnamed Bar'nabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Le'vite, and of the country of Cy'prus,

37 Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Chap. 5. 1 But a certain man named Anani'as, with Sapphi'ra his wife, sold a possession,

2 And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

3 But Pe'ter said, Anani'as, why hath Sa'tan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

5 And Anani'as hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and

THE LESSON RETOLD

Peter and John and the other disciples of Jesus preached His name so diligently, that soon the followers of Jesus became a great multitude. They were all very helpful and loving one to another. Those of them who had houses or lands, sold them and brought the money to the apostles, that they might give it to those who were poor. Amongst those who sold their possessions, was Barnabas, who came from the island of Cyprus, and was a man full of kindness and sympathy.

But a man named Ananias, and his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of land which they owned, and agreed together that they would bring only part of the money to the apostles, pretending, at the same time, that they had brought all. Now, God told Peter what these wicked people had planned; so, when Ananias came with the money, Peter said to him, "Ananias, was not the land your own

to sell it or not, as you liked? And was not the money you got for it your own, to keep, if you wanted to do so? Why did you let Satan tempt you to lie to the Holy Spirit by keeping back part of the money, while pretending to give it all?"

Peter said that Ananias had lied to the Holy Ghost, or Holy Spirit, because the money was really an offering to God. So Peter told Ananias, that when he thus lied to the Holy Spirit, he lied to God. Ananias immediately fell down dead. The Lord punished him in this way for his sin. When it was seen that he was really dead, the young men who were there carried him out and buried him.

About three hours afterwards, his wife Sapphira, not knowing what had happened, came to the same place; and Peter said to her, "Tell me, was the money your husband