

being "help-meets" they have shared in bringing about each other's ruin.

Judgment with a Purpose, v. 11. Make it clear that this terrible judgment upon Ananias and Sapphira came not from Peter, but from God. The hasty burial is unseemly

to us, but the class should have in mind the Eastern custom even to-day. May it not be that Peter and the other true Christians sorrowed at this judgment which was necessary for the good of others? Emphasize the truth of the Golden Text.

FOR TEACHERS IN THE JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

Teachers in the Junior Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the **JUNIOR QUARTERLY** or **LEAFLET**.

Remind the pupils that in a former lesson we learned how the early Christians shared everything with each other. (See Acts 2:45, Lesson for July 6, 1919.) Tell them that as time went on, those who were rich sold their property and gave the money to the apostles to be used for the needy members of the church. (See Acts 4:34-35.) They were not commanded to do this; they did it of their own free will.

Just as among the twelve disciples there was one who was ready to betray his Master, so among the members of the early church we find two people who were not sincere in what they professed. What do vs. 1 and 2 tell us about them? Explain that in Eastern countries, laying anything at another's feet signifies complete renunciation of the article. Question on the motive which influenced Ananias and Sapphira to act in this way. They wished to appear generous, but were too selfish to give all. Ask what evil spirits had not been cast out of their hearts and dwell on the fruits of vanity and selfishness. Did their scheme succeed? V. 3. How did Peter know? Note *conceived*. This act was not the impulse of a moment. Peter knew it was carefully planned. How had Ananias lied to the Holy Ghost?

What do we learn from v. 4? In what did the sin lay? Make this point clear. Show that neither the church nor the apostles laid any claim to either the property or the money. It was a matter between Ananias and his conscience, hence he lied to God. How was Ananias punished? V. 5. How hateful deceit and lying must be in God's sight.

What do we learn from vs. 7, 8? Who can suggest why Peter asked the question he did? V. 8. There was still time for Sapphira to tell the truth and escape the dreadful punishment. Perhaps, too, Peter wished to warn her that he knew the truth. Have v. 9 read silently. Question on Peter's feelings when he spoke the words it contains. Note how wrong doing always brings sorrow to the friends of the sinner, and how much more it must grieve the loving sinless Jesus.

What does v. 11 tell us about the effect?

This fear would prevent others who were not sincere and who would have been a source of weakness from becoming members of the infant church.

Have the Golden Text repeated. Urge your pupils to avoid slyness and deceit. We can act a lie without telling one. Have David's prayer, "Remove from me the way of lying" (Ps. 119:29) read, and then repeated in unison several times.

FOR TEACHERS IN THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Teachers in the Primary Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the **PRIMARY QUARTERLY**.

AIM OF THE LESSON. To teach that it is wrong to think, speak or act anything but the absolute truth.

INTRODUCTION. Believing in Jesus makes one to be loving and kind to others, and that happy company of followers of the disciples after Pentecost, shared everything they had with one another. Those that had land or

other riches sold them and brought the money to the disciples and they divided it so that all shared alike. One man named Joseph, who had a field, sold it and brought the money to the disciples. There was perhaps great rejoicing over that, because the field must have meant many pieces of silver or gold.

THE STORY. A man named Ananias and