

GOLDEN TEXT

Eph. 4:25. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Acts 4:32 to 5:11. The sin of lying.
T.—2 Kings 5:20-27. Swift punishment.
W.—Jer. 9:1-11. God's anger.
Th.—Psalm 52. The deceitful tongue.
F.—James 3:1-10. The false tongue.
S.—Prov. 19:1-9. The penalty.
S.—Prov. 12:13-22. The contrast.

CATECHISM.

Q. 7. What are the decrees of God?

A. The decrees of God are, His eternal purpose, according to the counsel of His will, whereby, for

His own glory, He hath fore-ordained whatsoever comes to pass.

TIME AND PLACE

Some time after the events of the previous lesson, probably between two or three years subsequent to the founding of the Church at Pentecost, say A.D. 30-33; at Jerusalem.

LESSON PLAN

I. An Unholy Scheme, 1, 2.
Between husband and wife to deceive the apostles.
II. The Husband's Doom, 3-6.
Sudden death for his lie to the Holy Ghost.
III. The Wife's Doom, 7-10.
A like awful fate for a like dreadful sin.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 90 (Ps. Sel.); 217; 249; 529; 532; 238

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—How were Peter and John treated by the Council? (Ch. 4:13.) Having been released, where did they go? (v. 23.) What was the effect of their preaching? (v. 31.) What spirit prevailed among the believers? (v. 32.) How did it show itself? Who is spoken of in verses 36 and 37? How spoken of?

1, 2 What persons mentioned in contrast? What had they planned to do? How does Ananias carry it out? Of what were they guilty? Whence comes covetousness? (Mark 7:21-23.) To what does it lead? (Josh. 7:20, 21; 1 Tim. 6:9, 10.) From what does it exclude? (1 Cor. 6:10; Eph. 5:5.)

3 To whom did Peter speak? What stern reproof given? Of what was Satan the author? (Gen. 3:1, 6, 14, 24.) Whom did he tempt later? (Matt. 4:1-10.) Whose work does he oppose? (1 Thess. 2:18.) How does God regard lying? (Prov. 6:16-19; 12:22.)

4-6 What might Ananias have done if he had wished? What dreadful punishment was inflicted? What was the effect on those who heard? Why so soon buried? (Num. 19:11.) What was the custom?

7-9 Who then came in? How long after? What does Peter ask her? What was her reply? Peter's response? What was her fate?

10, 11 What was God's purpose in these terrible happenings? Why were the people afraid?

Seniors and the Home Department—1, 6 What is one of the most common sins among the young? What form of it here mentioned? How is hypocrisy spoken of? (Isa. 29:15; Matt. 6:2; 7:5, 23, 29.) What further sin, growing out of hypocrisy, did Ananias and Sapphira commit? How is lying punished? (Rev. 21:8; Ps. 5:6; Prov. 19:5).

How suddenly did the punishment come in this case? Who sent it?

7-10 What plan had Ananias and Sapphira formed? Who prompted this? How does Satan often appear? (2 Cor. 11:14.) Into what does he beguile? (2 Cor. 11:3.) How does God regard covetousness? (Ps. 10:3.) Give some noted examples of it. (Gen. 3:10, 11; Matt. 19:22; Matt. 26:14, 15.) How were Ananias and Sapphira punished? What warning thus given to the others?

11 What was the effect both inside and outside the Church of this judgment from God?

Prove from Scripture—That all falsehood is sin.

Practical Points—1. It should not be hard to share what we have with those we love.

2. It has ever been the glory of the Church to care for the poor and needy.

3. Ananias and Sapphira were mean as well as bad.

4. "Oh, what may man within him hide
Though angel on the outward side."

5. When two join in a sin they help to destroy one another.

6. A lie acted is as bad as a lie spoken.

7. "To thine own self be true;
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man."

8. God must always be taken into account when we sin. We may leave Him out of account, but He cannot be passed by.

9. God's judgments startle us when they come like the lightning flash. They are none the less dreadful when they creep upon us slowly like the inflowing tide.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. How were the needs of the poor provided for at this time?

2. Wherein lay the guilt of Ananias and Sapphira?

3. Why did God so severely punish them?