

Lesson VI.

TRUE AND FALSE BROTHERHOOD

February 7, 1909

Acts 4: 32 to 5: 11.

*Commit to memory vs. 32, 33.

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

32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and ¹ of one soul: ² 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 ³ witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

34 ⁴ 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 ⁵ down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto ⁶ every man according as he had need.

36 And ⁷ Joseph, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, ⁸ the son of consolation,) a Le'vite, ⁹ and of the country of Cyprus,

37 Having ¹⁰ land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

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

2 And kept back ¹¹ 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 Peter said, Anani'as, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to

Revised Version—¹ Omit of one; ² not one of them said that ought; ³ their; ⁴ For neither was there among them any; ⁵ Omit down; ⁶ each, according as any one; ⁷ Joseph; ⁸ Son of exhortation; ⁹ a man of Cyprus by race; ¹⁰ a field; ¹¹ did it not remain thine own; ¹² thy power; ¹³ How is it that thou hast conceived; ¹⁴ upon all that heard it; ¹⁵ and wrapped him round; ¹⁶ they; ¹⁷ But Peter; ¹⁸ And she fell down immediately; ¹⁹ gave up; ²⁰ they carried her out and buried; ²¹ the whole church; ²² all that heard.

LESSON PLAN

- I. Brotherly Love, 32-37.
- II. Falsehood, Ch. 5: 1-11.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—True and false brotherhood, Acts 4: 32 to 5: 11. T.—Gehazi's punishment, 2 Kgs. 5: 15-27. W.—The deceitful tongue, Ps. 52. Th.—Truth and falsehood, Prov. 12: 13-22. F.—The unruly tongue, James 3: 1-10. S.—God knows! Ps. 139: 1-12. S.—The better way, Eph. 4: 25-32.

Shorter Catechism—*Ques. 5. Are there more Gods than one? A. There is but One only, the living and true God. Ques. 6. How many persons are there in the Godhead? A. There are three persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy*

keep back ¹¹ part of the price of the land?

4 Whiles it remained, ¹¹ was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in ¹² thine own power? ¹³ 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 ¹⁴ them that heard these things.

6 And the young men arose, ¹⁵ wound him up, and ¹⁶ 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 Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

9 ¹⁷ Then Peter 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 ¹⁸ shall carry thee out.

10 ¹⁸ Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and ¹⁹ yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, ²⁰ carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

11 And great fear came upon ²¹ all the church, and upon ²² as many as heard these things.

Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

The Question on Missions—6. What do the Chinese do for the blind? Our mission doctors? The Chinese sometimes try to cure blindness by digging it out with a needle, and, of course, only destroy the eye. Our doctors restore sight to many blind people by removing the opaque lens in cataract, or by cutting a little window in the iris.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 107 (Supplemental Lesson); 245; 238; 7 (Ps. Sel.); 580 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 530.

Special Scripture Reading—Matt. 6: 1-18. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.) It is expected that each scholar will have his or her Bible, and so be prepared to take part in this reading, which may form part of the opening exercises of the School.

EXPOSITION

By Rev. Professor James W. Falconer, B.D., Halifax, N.S.

Time and Place—A.D. 30; Jerusalem.

Connecting Links—The author, having described the growth of the Christian community and its outward expansion, now proceeds to give some account of the inner life of the brotherhood.

I. Brotherly Love, 32-37.

V. 32. *Multitude... that believed*; the whole company of believers. *Of one heart and soul* (Rev. Ver.); a strong expression denoting complete unity of affection and thought. *Had all things common*. Compare ch. 2: 44, and see Light from the East. Each one used

his wealth as a trust from God. But there was no compulsion; each one had the right to do what he willed with his own.

V. 33. *With great power*; doubtless by the working of miracles, as well as by word of mouth. *Gave the apostles witness*; their special business, ch. 1: 8. *Of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus*. The testimony of the apostles to this fact was backed up by the lives of the rank and file in the church, who showed, in their love and liberality, that the risen and living Christ was working in them through His Spirit. *Great grace was upon*

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the obtaining of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma.