TRUE AND FALSE BROTHERHOOD Lesson VI. February 7, 1909

BETWEEN THE LESSONS-To-day's Lesson follows immediately on the Lesson for last Sabbath. GOLDER TEXT—Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight.— Proverbs 12: 22.

Memorize vs. 32, 33. THE LESSON PASSAGE—Acts 4: 32 to 5: 11.

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.

was ins own; not 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

hecked: for as many as were possessors of many shouses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold.

35 And laid them 3 down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

36 And 7 Jo'ses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barn'abas, (which is, being interpreted, & the son of consolation,) a Le'vite, and of the country of Cy'prus,

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 Sarphi'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 Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to Revised Version—! Omit of one; 2 not one of the

Revised Version—10 mit of one; 2 not one of them said that aught, 3 their; 4 For neither was there among them any; 50 mit 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.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—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.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



A COIN OF CYPRUS

32, 33. Multitude.. that believed; the whole body One heart of believers. and..one soul; living in perfect harmony of affection and thought. Not one (in so great a company) .. said that aught..he possessed was his own (Rev. Ver.) : but it was to be held and used

I. BROTHERLY LOVE.-

as a trust for the good of all. All things common; " all for a while sharing alike." With great power ; gave the apostles witness, etc., backed up as their testimony was by the proof in the love and liberties of the whole company of disciples, that the living Saviour was working in them. Great grace; the loving favor of God.

34-37. Neither . . any . . lacked. The abundance of the richer supplied the needs of the poorer. Possessors .. sold .. brought the prices; to form a central fund from which all might be provided for. At the apostles' feet; who were given charge of the fund. Distribution .. according as .. need. Becoming a Christian often prevented a Jew from getting employment; hence the need of provision for the poor. Joses. Barnabas. the son of consoltaion. The Greek word for "consolation" is connected with that for Paraclete ("Helper"), a name keep back part of the price of the land?

4 Whiles it remained, "I was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in 12 thine own power? Is why hast thou conceived tais thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto

thine heat I most and 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, 15 wound him up, and 16 carried him out, and buried him.

7 And th was about the space of three hours after, when his wife not knowing what was done, came in

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,

ye sold the land for so much? And she same, ---, for so much.

9 If 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 16 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.

for the Holy Spirit. Barnabas was full of helpfulness (compare ch. 11:24.)

II. FALSEHOOD. - Ch. 5: 1, 2. But. The pretended liberality of Ananias and Sapphira is put over against the true generosity of Barnabas and the other disciples. Sold a possession; a piece of land

v. 3. Kept back part of the price; while pretending to put the whole into the common fund. Wife .. privy to it; fully aware of it and consenting to it. Brought a certain part; to purchase a reputation in the church for liberality. Laid it at the apostles feet; braving the wrath of the all-seeing God (Prov. 6: 16, 17) for the sake of the apostles' good opinion.

3, 4. Peter said; speaking as the leader of the apostles. Why hath Satan filled thine heart? "There is an inspiration of the devil as well as an inspiration of the Holy Spirit." To lie to the Holy Ghost; proof that the Holy Spirit is a Person. Only to a person can one lie. Keep back,, etc.; a direct charge of fraudulent concealment (compare v. 2). Remained.. thine own.. sold.. in thine own power. The sharing of goods (ch. 4:32, 34, 35) was not compulsory; it was the voluntary expression of love to others. Why .. conceived this