

## Lesson VI.

## TRUE AND FALSE BROTHERHOOD

February 7, 1909

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—To-day's Lesson follows immediately on the Lesson for last Sabbath.

GOLDEN 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 <sup>1</sup>of one soul. <sup>2</sup>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 <sup>3</sup>witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

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

36 And <sup>7</sup>Joseph, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, <sup>8</sup>the son of consolation,) a Levite, <sup>9</sup>and of the country of Cyprus,

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

Ch. 5: 1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira 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 Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to

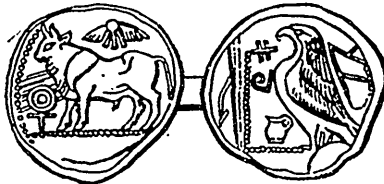
**Revised Version**—<sup>1</sup>Omit of one; <sup>2</sup>not one of them said that aught; <sup>3</sup>their; <sup>4</sup>For neither was there among them any; <sup>5</sup>Omit down; <sup>6</sup>each, according as any one; <sup>7</sup>Joseph; <sup>8</sup>Son of exhortation; <sup>9</sup>a man of Cyprus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

I. BROTHERLY LOVE.—32, 33. Multitude... that believed; the whole body of believers. One heart 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 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. Joseph... Barnabas... the son of consolation. The Greek word for "consolation" is connected with that for Paraclete ("Helper"), a name



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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