Lesson VI. **THE SIN OF LYING** February 9, 1902

Acts 5 : 1-11. Study Acts 4 : 33 to 5 : 11—Memory Verses, 3-5.

Golden Text—Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour. —Eph. 4 : 25.

1 But a certain man named Anani′as, with Sapphi′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 keep back *part* of the price of the land?

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

6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and 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 Pe′ter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. 9 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 shall carry thee out.

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

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

THE LESSON RETOLD

There were two ways in which the believers at Jerusalem honored their Master—they lived happily and peaceably among themselves and they were kind to the poor. Those among them who were rich sold their houses and lands and brought the money to the apostles, who put it all into one purse, out of which they helped their poorer brethren.

Now there was a man among them called Ananias, who, when he saw what others were doing, said to his wife Sapphira, "We have a field that we can sell; let us make a present also." So they agreed.

When the money was in their hands, they began to think they would like to keep a part of it for themselves. "We need not say anything about it," said Ananias, "and the apostles will suppose that what we give is all that we received for the field." So Ananias went and laid his offering down with that of the others at the apostles' feet. But when Peter saw it he said, "Ananias, what is this that you have done? Why have you allowed Satan to tempt you to act this lie before the Lord! You have not sinned against man, but against God!" At these words Ananias fell dead upon the floor.

When the people saw how sudden and terrible had been his punishment, they all began to be afraid and to tremble for terror. Then some young men came forward and picking up the dead body of Ananias, carried it out and buried it.

Now Sapphira had not heard what had happened to her husband, and about three hours after, she came into the room where their money was still lying.

"Is it true that you sold your land for this much?" asked the apostle, pointing to