

Dec. 12, 1923.

Scripture lesson- 4th Chapter of the Book of Acts beginning with the 35th verse through the 11th verse of the 36th chapter of Acts.

Coming back to this lesson I read this morning, there is something here that is very, very significant. Now, I am not going to talk to you about an Annanias Club. There is something here very, very significant that we quite often overlook in reading this story; for these Apostles they were beginning to persecute them, but with all boldness they went on teaching and preaching, and a large number of people joined, a large number of people believed in this, what to them was a new religion. They decided that they would take their worldly possessions, pool it, and those who had an abundance would help those who had nothing, so that no one would suffer for the necessary food, clothing and shelter. There was a man and his wife who wanted to be with that group, but who were not willing to go whole heartedly with it, and they had some property, and they said well, less sell it and give them a part of it, they will take care of us. We will join that way, but we will keep back some portion for ourselves. The spirit that was back of it is the thing that I want you to see. It is the spirit that prompts a thing in this world that counts. It may be just the dollars and cents business transaction, or it may be in your teaching, or it may be in your dealings with your fellow students, or it may be in your dealings with your fellow man; any where in the world it is the spirit back of it that counts and you cannot serve two. Annanias and Saphira wanted to be with the Disciples of Jesus, but they also wanted to have some left in case this scheme broke down, and they wouldn't go in it whole heartedly. They could not put their souls into it, and that fact within itself literally killed those two people. Now there are a lot of folks in this world who are trying to serve two things that are diametrically opposite and it kills them just as truly as it killed Annanias and Saphira. Oh, they may not drop down physically and die and the young men come in and wind them up; that's what it said about Annanias. They may not come in and wind you up and take you out and bury your body. There are a lot of dead folks in this world walking around; the physical body is here but the spirit is gone. The spirit of these two was gone, and when the wife came in about three hours later and was asked, "Saphira did you sell that land for so much? Yes, well why did you keep part of it back? She didn't know; that's what they always say. I don't know. The young men who have taken your husband out and buried him are at the door and they are going to take you out and bury you. She didn't know her husband was dead, and she dropped down and died and they came in and took her out and buried her. The spirit that had entered into her husband caused his spiritual death, and the same spirit entering into her caused her spiritual death. There is such a thing as dying spiritually, that is, there is such a thing as having a spirit that takes out all of your usefulness. I don't believe the spirit itself dies, but it becomes so filled with the evil that there isn't any good left in it. It is the spirit back of your life work that is going to count, just as much as the material work you do. We are working with you



in the college, and we are trying to give you all the knowledge and equipment that we can possibly give you, and it will help you make good in life, but all that we are giving you will not carry you through if you do not have the right spirit in it. Faith, hope and love, the greatest of these is love; the spirit of love.