

are only intelligible when applied to one who, coming after, is greater than he. *Sit . . . on my right hand*; share with me the kingdom. *Foes thy footstool*. To put one's foot on the neck of one's enemy meant complete triumph. *Lord and Christ*. Peter presses home the charge that, in crucifying Jesus, they had been fighting against God.

III. A FORGIVING CHRIST.—37-42. *Pricked*; with sorrow at Peter's words. They are convinced of the truth of it all. *What shall we do*; to escape the result of their wickedness. *Repent*. Peter's remedy is as pointed as his accusation. Submit to this Jesus whom ye crucified, for he comes not with condemnation, but with pardon. The gospel always spells opportunity. *To you your children, . . . all that are afar off*. "There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea." The gospel proves guilt only to offer

pardon. *Three thousand souls*; a great response to a great offer. *Steadfastly*. It was no passing enthusiasm.

Lesson Questions

What charge does Peter make against the Jews?

What does the resurrection prove about Jesus?

What effect did Peter's speech have?

Who are included in the gospel promises?

For Further Study and Discussion

1. What promise of Jesus explains Pentecost? (Acts 1 : 8.)

2. What does Christ do for us in heaven? (Heb. 7 : 25.)

3. Are people responsible for sins of ignorance?

4. Do miracles happen in our day?

PROVE FROM SCRIPTURE—That Jesus was God's Son.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Ques. 32.

THE LESSON IN DA'LY LIFE (Daily Readings)

Monday—Witness for Jesus, Acts 1 : 1-9.

Jesus never encouraged curiosity. He never discouraged interest. Curiosity asks about times and seasons which belong to God alone. Curiosity is ready for information. Interest is ready for inspiration. Curiosity asks about divine intentions. Interest asks about human responsibilities and duties. Curiosity asks, "What will God do?" Interest asks, "What must I do?"

Tuesday—The coming of the Holy Spirit, Acts 2 : 1-8.

The outpouring of the Spirit came with Christ because only in him do we fully understand the divine nature and, because we understand God in Christ, we are ready to receive him. In Jesus, God is like sweet air and sunlight and the doors of the human heart open to receive him.

Wednesday—Prophecy fulfilled, Acts 2 : 14-21.

Christ is not an afterthought of God. He is a forethought. Christ did not come into the world to remedy a broken purpose. He came to reveal the unbroken purpose of God. And what God saw in unbroken wholes, he gave to his prophets to see in glints and gleams.

Thursday—The resurrection foretold, Acts 2 : 22-32.

Hints of the resurrection in the scriptures before Christ's time? Yes, and not on written page alone. The wayside flower, the golden harvest, the season's processional, all cry aloud that life rises from every grave in which it is hid. What the psalmist sang yesterday, the flower flames to-day.

Friday—Three thousand converted, Acts 2 : 33-42.

"There are no Pentecosts now." This is your sigh. How many were there in Peter's day? You are not responsible for the statistics of the kingdom. The faithful preparation of ground and sowing of seed is yours. The harvest is God's. You cannot command the rain and the dew and the sun.

Saturday—The path of life, Ps. 16 : 1-11.

God and goodness. Goodness and gladness. These three things are bound together in the bundle of life. Do not let us ever forget that religion gives not only the promise of the life that is to be, but the possession of the life that now is.

Sunday—The promise of the spirit of truth, John 16 : 7-15.

"He shall not speak of himself"—this is the mark of the spirit of truth. It is a virtue that we all need to cultivate—not to speak of ourselves. There are other subjects of conversation that will interest your friend. For example, your neighbor will be interested in hearing about himself occasionally.

A PRAYER

O God, help us to see the real meaning of our sins. Help us to understand that our sins crucify Christ afresh. Help us to understand that we are crowning Jesus when we are loyal to him. Help us to build his throne in the world, and to this end may we be ready to throne him in our own hearts as master of all. Amen.