

Lesson X.

JESUS ON THE CROSS

December 9, 1906

Luke 23 : 33-46. Commit to memory vs. 42, 43. Read Matthew 27 : 38-66 ; Mark 15 : 24-47 ; Luke 23 : 26-32.

GOLDEN TEXT—Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.—Luke 23 : 34.

33 And when they ¹were come to the place, which is called ²Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

34 ³Then said Je'sus, Father, forgive them ; for they know not what they do. And ⁴they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them ⁵derided him, saying, He saved others ; let him save himself, if ⁶he be Christ, the chosen of God.

36 And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, ⁷and offering him vinegar,

37 And saying, If thou ⁸be the king of the Jews, save thyself.

38 And ⁹a superscription also was written over him ¹⁰in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, **THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged

Revised Version—¹came unto ; ²The skull ; ³And Jesus said ; ⁴parting his garments among them, they ; ⁵scoffed at him ; ⁶this is the Christ of God, his chosen ; ⁷Omit and ; ⁸art the King ; ⁹there was also a superscription ; ¹⁰Omit in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew ; ¹¹Art not thou the Christ ? ; ¹²answered, and rebuking him said, Dost thou not even ; ¹³Jesus, ¹⁴the whole land ; ¹⁵the sun's light failing ; ¹⁶this

railed on him, saying, ¹¹If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

40 But the other ¹²answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation ?

41 And we indeed justly ; for we receive the due reward of our deeds ; but this man hath done nothing amiss.

42 And he said ¹³unto Je'sus, Lord, remember me when thou comest ¹⁴into thy kingdom.

43 And ¹⁵Je'sus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

44 And it was ¹⁶about the sixth hour, and ¹⁷there was a darkness over ¹⁸all the earth until the ninth hour.

45 ¹⁹And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.

46 And when Je'sus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit : and having said ²⁰thus, he gave up the ghost.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—Friday, April 7, A.D. 30, from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m.; Calvary, just outside the walls of Jerusalem.

Connection—Jesus was led forth to the place of execution, bearing His own cross (John 19 : 17), until He fainted under its weight. Then "Simon, a Cyrenian," was compelled by the onlookers to carry it, Luke 23 : 26.

I. THE CROSS.—

33, 34. The place . . . called Calvary (Rev. Ver., "The skull"),—as the Latin word means from which "Calvary" is derived ; so called from the shape of the place. Crucified him ; nailing His hands and feet to the cross, which was then raised and settled in its place in the ground. "It was the most cruel and shameful of all

deaths," says the Roman Cicero. The malefactors ; "robbers", perhaps members of some wild band of rebels against Roman rule. Father, forgive them ; the first of Jesus' "seven words" on the cross (see For Further Study). It was probably uttered when His agony was most intense. Know not, etc. Not even the Jews, much less Pilate and the Roman soldiers, knew that Jesus was God's holy Son (see Acts 3 : 17 ; 1 Cor. 2 : 8). Parted his raiment ; and cast lots. There were four soldiers, with a centurion.

35-37. Saved others . . . save himself. Jesus could not save Himself and be the Saviour of others, and so He sacrificed Himself. Christ ; one of the titles Jesus had claimed, Matt. 26 : 63, 64. Offering . . . vinegar ; a kind of sour wine. This the soldiers

put to His thirsty lips and snatched away again in cruel mockery. King of the Jews. Jesus was never more a King than when He endured in silence these cruel taunts.

38. Superscription, etc.; the writing giving the name and crime of the person crucified. It was done on a white tablet, hung round the neck of the criminal, and then fastened to the cross. Greek . . . Latin . . . Hebrew ; the three great languages of the world of that time : an unconscious prophecy



Jesus and Simon of Cyrene . . .

of the time when the gospel should be preached in every language (see Rev. 7 : 9). **THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.** It was for claiming this position, that Jesus was accused by the Jews, v. 2.

II. THE MALEFACTORS.—39-43. One of the malefactors . . . railed on Him. For the three other classes who joined in ill-treating Jesus, see vs. 35, 36. The other . . . rebuked him ; realizing the holiness of Jesus, and the awful guilt of those who were putting Him to death. Lord, remember me,