

shameless dishonesty. Scribes and chief priests. The priesthood had shared in the unlawful profits of the market. **How they might destroy.** Christ had usurped their authority in the temple and interfered with their gains. **They feared him.** Therefore they could not attack him openly. **All the people were astonished.** He had the support of the people. Luke (Rev. Ver.) says the people "all hung upon him, listening."

**III. SILENCING THE PRIESTS.—27-30.** Come again to Jerusalem. Jesus had spent the night at Bethany near Jerusalem. **Walking in the temple.** This is his third visit to the temple. Chief priests . . . scribes . . . elders. This was really a deputation from the Sanhedrin, the supreme Jewish council. **By what authority.** What authority had he in himself to cleanse the temple? **Who gave . . . this authority.** What authority had he from any one else? **I will also ask . . . one question.** These men had not come as inquirers after truth. They came seeking to entrap him, and as such he dealt with them. **The baptism of John.** The baptism stands for the whole public ministry of John. **Was it from heaven, or of men?** Was John the Baptist a man sent of God, or was he merely a man who had undertaken a mission on his own authority?

**31-33. They reasoned with themselves.** Jesus has put them in a difficult position. They came to entrap him. He has entrapped them. **If we . . . say, From heaven ; if we admit he had divine authority. Why . . . did ye not believe him?** Why did they not respond when John called the whole nation to repentance. Moreover, if they acknowledged John's authority, they must admit Christ's, for John bore witness to Jesus, that he was the Messiah. **If we . . . say, Of men.** They feared to contradict the idea of the people who regarded John as a great prophet of God. **We cannot tell.** They seek a coward's refuge—a lie. **Neither do I tell.** They had forfeited their right to an answer. Christ's enemies were silenced for the moment, but their hatred was increased.

## THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

**THE TEMPLE** of the time of Jesus was built by Herod. There were five main divisions : (1) The outer court, or Court of the Gentiles. It was this part that Jesus cleansed. (2) The Court of the Israelites, on a higher level than the outer court. No Gentile might enter here. (3) The Court of the Priests, with the great altar for burnt sacrifices. (4) The Holy Place, with

the incense altar, showbread and candlesticks. (5) The Holy of Holies. Once a year, the high priest entered here on the Day of Atonement, to offer sacrifices for the sins of the people.

## LESSON QUESTIONS

**15, 16** What did Jesus do when he entered the temple? When did he do this before? (John 2 : 13-17.) In what part of the temple was the market? What good reason was there for such a thing? Why then were they cast out? Why were moneychangers in the temple? What were doves required for? (Lev. 12 : 8.) What do we understand by carrying vessels through the temple?

**17, 18** What did Christ say the temple had become? Why were the priests angry at Jesus? What did they plan to do? Why did they not do it openly?

**27-30** Who came to question Jesus in the temple? What was their question? What promise has Jesus for those who seek earnestly? (Matt. 7 : 7.) Did Jesus answer the priest's question? What did he do instead? What was Christ's question?

**31-33** What answer did they make? What was Christ's final answer?

## FOR DISCUSSION

1. Is it ever right to be angry?
2. Are we bound to answer every question asked of us?

## A PRAYER

Our Father, we thank thee that thou hast opened our eyes to know the king who came in humility and now reigns in majesty. Enable us to yield to him our glad and full obedience, and when obedience calls us to suffering for his sake, let our complaints be silenced in praise to him who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

**Prove from Scripture—That Christians are God's temple.**

**Shorter Catechism—Ques. 17.** Into what estate did the fall bring mankind? A. The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.

**The Question on Missions—7.** How do they treat one another? Parents love their children, but prefer boys. They do not train them well in truthfulness and honesty. Men treat their wives more as servants, but often love them. Fighting with fists is not common, but tongue-lashing and top-knot pulling are common, also gossiping. Koreans are kindhearted, generous and hospitable.

## FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. How did Jesus cleanse the temple? .....

2. What did he teach was the right use of the temple? .....

3. How did he silence the priests? .....

**SIGN NAME HERE** .....