

GOLDEN TEXT

Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit. Eph. 5: 18.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Mark 6: 14-29. Death of John the Baptist.
T.—Luke 8: 15-20. Reproof of sin.
W.—Eph. 11: 32-40. The martyr roll.
Th.—Rev. 2: 7-11. The crown of life.
F.—Dan. 5: 1-7; 25-31. Belshazzar's feast.
S.—Isaiah 5: 8-13. Sinful feasting.
S.—Eph. 5: 6-21. Wise walking.

TIME

Early A.D. 29, the third year of Christ's ministry, called "the year of development." John had been in prison for probably a year.

PLACE

Macherus, a fortress to the north-east of the Red Sea, where John was imprisoned.

CATECHISM

Q. 25. How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?

A. Christ executeth the office of a priest in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.

LESSON PLAN

I. A Martyr to Duty, 14-18.

He had reproved King Herod for his sin.

III. Through a King's Folly, 19-23.

Against his own better judgment.

V. And a Queen's Revenge, 24-29.

Coolly planned and relentlessly carried out.

LESSON HYMNS

2; 34 (Ps. Sel.); 280; 532; 250.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—14 To what king is reference made? How many Herods were there? (Matt. 2: 3; Luke 3: 19; Acts 12: 1.) Of whom had Herod heard? How? What did he say?

15-18 How was Christ regarded by others? Why Elijah? (Mal. 4: 5.) What caused Herod to think about John? How had he treated John? Why? Where was he imprisoned? Who was Herodias?

19, 20 What feeling did Herodias entertain towards the Baptist? What did she resolve? Why did Herod fear John? How did he act? Who did the same? (Acts. 24: 25.)

21-23 What day was observed? In what manner? Who were invited? Who came to amuse them? By whose plan? With what effect? What offer made by Herod? How did Herod confirm his promise?

24-26 Whose advice asked? What given? What was a charger? How did Herod feel?

27-29 How did he act? Why did he yield? What was his folly? What command given? How obeyed? What did John's disciples do?

Seniors—14 How had Christ's fame been spread abroad? What was Herod's view? Did John work any miracles? (John 10: 41.) What did Herod suppose? Who thought the same? (Matt. 16: 14.)

15-18 Who did others suppose Christ to be? Why? What was Herod's opinion? Why had John been imprisoned? Describe his early life, work, appearance and character. To what should reproof lead? (Prov. 15: 32; Prov. 6: 23; Prov. 13: 18.)

19, 20 With what is revenge inconsistent? (Luke 9: 55.) From what does it proceed? (Ezek. 25: 15.) What is meaning of "observed"? In what spirit did he hear him?

21-23 How was Herod's birthday observed? Who were among the guests? How did Herodias' daughter act? How did Herod evidence his folly? For what do many to-day offer the kingdom of their souls?

24-26 What hellish request made? What prompted it? Distinguish between the king's sorrow and true repentance. How did Pilate try to soothe his conscience?

27-29 Did Herodias succeed in silencing John? (Gen. 4: 10.) What act of respect did John's disciples show? Whence did they seek comfort? Who is our true solace in sorrow?

Bible Side Lights—RISEN FROM THE DEAD—1 Kings 17: 19-21; 2 Kings 4: 32-37; 13: 20, 21.

BOUND HIM IN PRISON—2 Kings 17: 4; 25: 7; Acts 5: 18; 12: 5, 6; 16: 23.

ON HIS BIRTHDAY—Gen. 40: 20.

ASK WHATSOEVER THOU WILT—Ezek. 5: 3; 7: 2.

Practical Thoughts—1. Conscience is a quick detective. Herod's first thought was of John because he knew he had done wrong, and even the opinions of other people did not ease his mind.

2. John's courage was both physical and moral when he faced the king to tell him that he was doing wrong.

3. How strangely "mixed" things get; truth in prison and wrong upon the throne.

4. Herod was the worst kind of coward. He was led by Herodias to keep John in prison when he knew he ought to release him.

5. Drink truly steals away the brains, and heart, too, of those who indulge in it.

6. We may have sinned in making a wrong promise, but we add another sin when we keep it.

7. We bring a curse upon ourselves when we lead those who are younger or weaker than ourselves to do wrong.

8. God commands us again and again to obey our parents, but it is only "in the Lord." He must come first in our regard.

9. How tender and gentle God is. He thinks it worth while to tell what became of John's poor body.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What led to Herod's terror?

2. What was Herodias' plan of revenge?

3. How did she carry it out?