

"Charlie, I want you to take care of baby while I get dinner ready," said his mother. "Now that's what Jesus would like me to do" thought Charlie (Here is a line for Jesus' will); but Charlie said, "I don't want to stay in doors all morning." (Here is a line for Charlie's will across Jesus' will.) What does it form? "I'll give up my way" said Charlie, after a few moments' thought, (Erase cross-line) and I'll walk in Jesus' way." (Draw parallel line.) Then it ceases to be a cross. When you stop saying, "I don't want to" and walk in Jesus' way, you are "bearing your cross"? Anything that *crosses our will or pleasure* is a "cross" (a burden) to us. Jesus says we must give up our own will (deny ourselves) and bear our cross, if we would follow Him. We must be ready even to die for Him.

The Lesson—Golden Text. Jesus spoke these words to His disciples. Find Caesarea Philippi on map, the beautiful town, nestling in a valley of flowers and fruit, close to Mount Hermon, where Jesus had withdrawn for a quiet time of rest and teaching, with His disciples.

Peter's Reply—Jesus said that upon Peter, as standing for all the apostles, and on his confession the Christian Church would be founded.

The Cross Jesus Bore for Us. Explain verse 21. Peter was sorry and puzzled. He tried to tempt Jesus not to suffer these things. Jesus again *resists temptation*. (verse 23.) He was willing to bear the cross (burden) of our sins and says all His true followers should be willing to bear their cross for His sake.

The Reward—Jesus says if we are too fond of our own comfort and pleasures, these will be taken from us. If we give our life here for work for Him, we shall have everlasting life in heaven. That is more precious than the whole world, "No cross, no crown."

Let us walk in Jesus' way
Every moment of the day,
Casting on Him all our care,
He will all our burdens bear.
Let us then ourselves deny,
Looking to the House on high,
We in heaven a crown shall wear,
If on earth our cross we bear.

BLACKBOARD REVIEW

See Les

NO CROSS NO CROWN

The familiar saying, "No cross, no crown," has been selected as the review sentence for three reasons: (1) It is a precious truth, even as commonly understood; (2) It has a more far-reaching meaning than is usually attached to it; (3) It is the negative side of a truth, the positive side of which needs to be emphasised.

Write it on the board as above and show that, without the denial, the utter slaying, indeed, of self here, there will be no crown of life hereafter. Then show, and this is the new thought, that Christ's teaching means also that there will be no real victory, no real glory, no real kingship *even in this present life*, except through such self-denial. Then blot out enough of the "NO" in each case to leave "A"—and insist on the truth, "A Cross, A Crown"—the perfect certainty (the positive side of the truth) of reward, here and hereafter, in and for the giving up of one's own will for Christ's.