

Lesson II.

THE RAISING OF LAZARUS

April 9, 1905

John 11 : 32-45—Memory Verses, 33-36.

Golden Text—Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life.—John 11 : 25.

32 Then when Ma'ry was come where Je'sus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

33 When Je'sus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,

34 And said, Where have ye laid him ? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.

35 Je'sus wept.

36 Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him !

37 And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died ?

38 Je'sus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

39 Je'sus said, Take ye away the stone. Mar'tha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh : for he hath been *dead* four days.

40 Je'sus saith unto her, Said I not unto

thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God ?

41 Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead was laid. And Je'sus lifted up *his* eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

42 And I knew that thou hearest me always : but because of the people which stand by I said *it*, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Laz'arus, come forth.

44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes : and his face was bound about with a napkin. Je'sus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

45 Then many of the Jews which came to Ma'ry, and had seen the things which Je'sus did, believed on him.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Just outside the city of Jerusalem, in the village of Bethany, there lived three of Jesus' dearest earthly friends—Mary, her sister Martha, and their brother called Lazarus. One day, when Jesus was teaching across the Jordan, He received a hasty message from the two sisters, telling Him that Lazarus was very ill, and likely to die. Now, the last time Jesus had been in Jerusalem, the Jews had tried to stone Him, and the disciples were very unwilling that the Master should again risk His life by returning to that part of the country.

For two days Jesus remained where He was, and then, in spite of all that the disciples said against it, He set out for Bethany. But in the meantime Lazarus had died, and the two sisters, wondering greatly why Jesus did not come, had sorrowfully laid away their

brother's body in the grave.

Now, in the country where Jesus lived, graves were not dug in the earth, but were hewn out of the solid rock. Sometimes they were like caves or rooms cut on the side of a hill, and were usually closed by a large boulder or stone rolled before the opening.

When Mary and Martha returned to the house after the funeral, word was brought that Jesus was on His way to them. Leaving Mary in the house, Martha went out to meet Him, and fell at His feet, saying, "Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother would not have died." In vain Jesus tried to comfort her, and when, a little later, He sent for Mary, she also reproached Him, as Martha had done, because He had not come in time to save their brother's life.

Jesus now asked where Lazarus was buried,