

## DOUBTFUL FRIENDS AND BITTER FOES.

Read Acts xxi. 17-40 ; xxii. 1-22.

Learn I Cor. x. 32, 33.

With whom did S. Paul lodge at Jerusalem ? With the disciple Mnason.

How was he received ? Ver 17.

What took place on his arrival ? A meeting of the clergy.

Who presided at the meeting ? S. James, Bishop of Jerusalem.

Why did not all the clergy welcome S. Paul ? Because they opposed the Gentiles entering the Church which he approved.

What had some of their own party done ? Spoke against S. Paul and insisted on circumcision.

What was the substance of Paul's speech ? Ver. 19.

And what was the result ? Those assembled glorified God.

But were the people all won over ? No, there were many bitter foes who did not believe in Christ at all.

What feelings would they have ? Feelings of hatred and revenge against S. Paul.

How would S. Paul look on such men ? With grief for the blindness and love for their souls.

Where did his foes discover him at last ? In the Temple.

Describe the scene that followed.

Of what was S. Paul in danger ? Being stoned like Stephen.

In what way was he released ? Ver. 31, 32.

Who did the Captain think Paul was ? Ver. 38.

When the uproar ceased what did S. Paul do ? Ver. 40.

Give some particulars of his speech.

Name the results of his journey to Jerusalem. The message of peace from the Gentiles accepted. His own deliverance from a cruel death. Now a prisoner and the nation has again rejected Christ.

All this seemed poor enough, but so was it with Christ Himself, and so is it often with His teachers now.

HYMN for August—A. &amp; M., 194 ; Church Hymns, 397.

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TEXTS TO BE LEARNED—Ps. lxxxvi. 5 ; S. Jno. xvi. 24.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY.

Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve ; pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy ; forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

## 1.—ASKER AND GIVER.

Are we ready to ask blessings from God ? Why are we not ? From a sense of our guilt. What helps us to pray ? The thought of Christ's merit. Name another hindrance to prayer ? Our unworthiness. But what helps us here ? The thought of Christ's righteousness. What does the Collect say of God ? "He is always more ready," etc. How is God's readiness taught us ? By promise (Is. lxxv. 24), by parable (S. Luke xi. 5-9), by example (S. Jno. xi. 41, 45).

## 2.—PRAYER AND ANSWER.

What is one mark of feeble prayer ? Small desires. Name another. Small deservings. But for what should we ever ask ? The abundance of God's mercy. What shows God's great readiness to hear ? He does exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think. In whose name must