

## Notes on the S. S. Lessons.

### Jesus Betrayed.

John 18: 1-14.

**W**HILE Jesus was sitting with His disciples, one of the number named Judas left the room and went to the priests, who, like himself, were wicked men, and there he made a bargain to betray Jesus, that is, to lead them to where they might take Him prisoner. What a wicked act. What a mean act. Only to think that he should have been so lost to all sense of what was manly or true as to do such a thing. How kind Jesus had always been to him, even to the very hour when he went out to sell his Master, for you remember He had washed his feet too. Then Jesus had honored him by letting him have charge of the little stock of money belonging to the company. If you ask why he acted so shamefully, we say read John 13: 27; "Satan entered into him." But remember, dear children, Satan could not have entered if he had not been willing to let him. After Satan entered he was ready to do anything, and so he went out and did the most wicked deed that was ever done on the face of the globe. HE BETRAYED JESUS. When the soldiers took Jesus, we read that all His disciples forsook Him and fled. Think of the dear Saviour, betrayed by one of His followers and deserted by all the rest. What we want you to learn is:

1st. The danger of temptation. No doubt there was a time when Judas would have been offended had it been suggested that he should do such a wicked act. But it appears that he yielded to temptation first to steal the money, then to act the hypocrite, and finally to sell his Master. Perhaps his great weakness was love of money. Beware of temptation.

2nd. We learn from the desertion by His disciples that we must not trust to our own hearts. One of them had said he would never forsake Jesus, and yet he did when the time of trial came.

3rd. We learn the love of Jesus. He loved His disciples to the end. When taken prisoner He asked that His disciples should not be harmed (see 8th verse); and after He rose from the dead He never reproached them for what they had done. Let us follow His example.

### Jesus Before Pilate.

John 18: 28-40.

**Y**OU must try to understand about the different places and people before whom Jesus was dragged during the long hours of that sad night. The chief court of law of the Jews was called the

"Council," or sometimes the Sanhedrim. It had seventy-two members, all of whom were either priests, learned men, or chief in some way among the Jews. The high priest was the head of this council. Annas used to be the high priest, but the Romans had put him out of office and appointed Caiaphas, who had married the daughter of Annas, in his place. But Annas still had a great deal of power among the Jews; so Jesus was taken there first. But as Caiaphas was now acting as high priest, and so was head of the council, Annas sent him there.

We only know of two men, out of all those seventy-two, who did not hate Jesus bitterly. These were Nicodemus, who had come to Jesus by night (John 3), and Joseph, who lived in Arimathea; and these two did not seem to have the courage to vote against all the others. We shall see more of them in another lesson.

Most of the others, knowing that Judas had been paid to take the soldiers to where Jesus was, had not gone to bed but were eagerly waiting for news. Some of them were in the palace of Caiaphas. So, when Jesus was brought there, some were already there, others quickly came.

Read what happened in that room, in Matt. 26: 59-68; Mark 14: 55-65. They declared Him to be "guilty of death." But though murder was in their hearts, they must stick to the form of the law; and a sentence passed in the night, and not in their own hall but in the high priest's palace, was not lawful. So they must wait for daylight. It was while they were waiting that Peter three times denied his Master (vs. 25, 27; Luke 22: 59). Also the servants amused themselves by blindfolding Jesus, spitting in his face, and striking Him. The council were so afraid of Jesus getting away from them, they scarcely waited for daylight, but as early as possible met and sentenced Him to death (Matt. 27: 1; Mark 15: 1; Luke 22: 66-71).

But they were not powerful enough to carry out their own sentence: for they themselves were subject to the Romans and had to obey Roman laws. So they took Him to Pilate, the Roman governor, to try to coax or force him to do as they wished.

Although Pilate saw plainly that Jesus had done nothing wrong, instead of letting Him go at once, he gave the Jews their choice between Jesus and another prisoner named Barabbas, who was a robber.

### "OUR YOUNG PEOPLE."

Edited by ALF. SANDHAM. Published on the first and third Saturday of each month, by the Toronto Willard Tract Depository.—S. R. BRIGGS, Manager—corner Yonge and Temperance Streets, Toronto, Ont.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.—PER YEAR—Single copies, 25c.; 10 copies, \$1.50; 25 copies, \$3.00; 100 copies, \$10.00.

