

LESSON VI—May 12th, 1895.

Jesus before the High Priest. MARK 14: 53-64.

(Commit to memory verses 60-62).

GOLDEN TEXT: "He is despised and rejected of men." Isa. 53: 3.

PROVE THAT—The false witness will be punished. Prov. 19: 9.

LESSON HYMNS—*Children's Hymnal*. Nos. 38, 39, 46, 48.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 20. *Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?* A. God having out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday*. Jesus before the high priest. Mark 14: 53-64. *Tuesday*. Peter's denial. Mark 14: 65-72. *Wednesday*. Ground of false accusation. John 2: 18-25. *Thursday*. Mocked and smitten. Luke 22: 63-71. *Friday*. The high priest's question. John 18: 19-24. *Saturday*. Triumphant patience. 1 Peter 2: 17-25. *Sabbath*. Contradiction of sinners. Heb. 12: 1-6. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

NOTES AND EXPLANATIONS.

The band of chief priests and elders (Luke 22:52) with the Jewish temple guard (Luke 22: 52; John 18: 12) accompanied by a Roman cohort and its captain (John 18: 12; Acts 21:31) from the castle, with other servants armed with staves, or cudgels (verses 43, 47), led by the traitor Judas, now broke in upon the sacred scene in the garden. Although Judas gave the appointed sign, which has become for all ages the type of blackest infamy—"a Judas' kiss"—yet there was something in the calm majesty of Jesus which restrained them. Declaring his ability to deliver himself if he wished, rebuking the rash valor of the impetuous Peter, and asking grace for his disciples, the meek and lowly One submitted to be ignominiously bound (John 18: 12) and carried away to his mock trial and cruel death. Parallel passages, Matt. 26: 47-75; Luke 22: 47-65; John 18: 2-27.

LESSON PLAN. I. The False Witnesses. vs. 53-59. II. The True Witness. vs. 60-62-III. The Unjust Sentence. vs. 63, 64.

I. THE FALSE WITNESSES. 53. The high priest—The order of events is obscure, but John (18: 13, 19-24) tells us that Jesus was examined first before Annas immediately upon his arrest. Why he was taken before him we do not know. John states that it was because he was father-in-law to Caiaphas, the high priest, but why this relationship called for a preliminary examination before him we cannot tell. Some suppose that he was the legitimate high priest and Caiaphas held the dignity by virtue of an appointment by the Romans. Others that he was president of the Sanhedrim, and still others that he was joint-high priest, but all these are simply suggestions. We have not sufficient knowledge of the local politics of the day to enable us to explain the matter. Mark groups together all the incidents of the Jewish trial without distinguishing those that took place at the trial before Annas from those that occurred in the high priest's presence. There were three examinations, (1) before Annas, (2) before Caiaphas during the night, and (3) before Caiaphas and the Sanhedrim in the morning when formal sentence was pronounced. Caiaphas had prejudged the case (John 18: 14; 11: 49, 50). Annas and Caiaphas seem to have resided in the same building, for all three denials by Peter were in the one courtyard (John 18: 15-27). The haste and confusion seem to indicate that the plans of Christ's enemies were precipitated by the action of Judas. They did not intend to arrest him until after the passover (ch. 14: 1, 2). Chief priests—the heads of the 24 courses (1 Chr. 24). The term is used to denote the Sanhedrim (John 12: 10 and 11: 47). This was an irregular meeting of that court. Joseph and Nicodemus were probably not present (Luke 23: 51; John 20: 38, 39).

54. Peter—John was there too (John 18: 15, 16), and through his influence Peter was admitted. Palace—R. V., "court," the open paved quadrangle of the house. In the centre of this a fire was kindled in a brazier to temper the chilliness of the spring night. The Sanhedrim was sitting in one of the chambers, probably the large one open on the side next the court, and directly opposite the entrance. Jesus could hear what was going on around the fire as he stood before his judges. Servants—R. V., "officers," as in John 18: 18. The attendants of the court. At the fire—R. V., "warming himself in the light of the fire" (Luke 22: 55, 56). Peter had been questioned by the portress at the gate, and his first denial seems to have been uttered to her. The second and third denials took place at the fire.

55. Sought for witnesses—Matt. says "false witnesses" (26: 59). They knew that no truthful person could say anything against him (John 8: 46). Their conduct afterwards