

Lesson X.

JESUS ON THE CROSS

December 9, 1906

Luke 23 : 33-46—Memory Verses, 42, 43.

Golden Text—Father, forgive them ; for they know not what they do.—Luke 23 : 34.

46 And when Je'sus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit : and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The priests and scribes were very glad when Pilate said Jesus was to be crucified, and as quickly as they could, they hurried Him out of the city to a hill called Calvary, where He was to be put to death. Besides Jesus, the soldiers took with them two other men, who were also to be crucified. But these men were not like Jesus, who had never done any wrong—they were wicked robbers, who were going to be justly punished for the evil they had done.

At last the great crowd reached the place, and as the soldiers laid Jesus upon the cross and drove the cruel nails into His hands and feet, He prayed to God to forgive them, for they did not understand that it was God's own Son they were thus cruelly treating, who had come down from heaven to save them from being punished for their sins.

A great company of scribes and rulers, as well as other people, had followed Jesus from the city, and now stood around watching; and they made fun of Jesus and mocked Him, saying, "He pretended to save others. If He is really the Christ, why cannot He save

33 And when they were come to the place, which is called Cal'vary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

34 Then said Je'sus, Father, forgive them ; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.

36 And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar.

37 And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself.

38 And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and La'tin, and He'brew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation ?

41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds : but this man hath done nothing amiss.

42 And he said unto Je'sus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

43 And Je'sus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

45 And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.

46 And when Je'sus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit :

Himself and come down from the cross ?" And the soldiers, also, mocked Him and cried, "If Thou art the King of the Jews, save Thyself !" For Pilate had ordered to be written over His head, in different languages, so that all might read, these words, "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS." And they dipped a sponge in vinegar and held it up to Jesus to drink, when He cried out that He was thirsty.

And one of the robbers who was crucified with Jesus, mocked Him, as the soldiers had done, and said, "If Thou art really the Christ, save Thyself and us !" But the other, who believed in Jesus, said to him, "Are you not afraid that God will punish you for mocking this good Man ? He has done nothing wrong, while we are being rightly punished for all our wicked deeds." Then this robber, who was sorry for his sins, said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom." And Jesus answered, "This very day thou shalt be with Me in paradise."

Although it was about noon when Jesus