

## TEACHING HINTS AND HELPS

This section, which embraces also that entitled "For Teachers of the Little Ones," contains teaching material for various grades and from different points of view. The variety will be found of service.

## For Bible Class Teachers

## AN ANALYSIS

The incidents here recorded occurred probably in the Temple and in the court of the Gentiles. In teaching the lesson Jesus should be the central figure.

1. *Greeks are brought to Him.* How? (1) By their own desire. Attracted by His fame as a teacher and wonder-worker. Moved by the Spirit, who is omnipresent and testifies of the truth. (2) Philip and Andrew who introduced them may have hesitated to do so because of the command given them (Matt. 10: 5) and because of their own request regarding a Greek woman. (Matt. 15: 23, Mark 7: 26.) They need to be further taught the world-wide import of their Master's Mission. Hence we have here:

2. *The lessons He taught them and the Greeks.* What are they? (1) As the Son of Man He is to be glorified. How? By death and resurrection. As the corn of wheat multiplies by dying, so He is to give life to the world—to have unlimited fruitfulness, vs. 23, 24. "I am the life." (John 14: 6.) (2) He is to be glorified in this manner voluntarily, in the spirit of self-sacrifice. (John 10: 15, 17, 18.) (3) The same law of self-sacrifice is binding on His servants, vs. 25, 26; 1 John 3: 16. We should act, love and suffer as He did that we may be honored of God. (2 Tim. 2: 12.) "Love not thy life in time, lest thou lose it in eternity."—Augustine.

3. *His appeal to His Father.* (1) It is a prayer not that He may escape the trial, but that He may be brought safely out of it. (Heb. 5: 7.) He never hesitated to lay down His life. (John 10: 17, 18; Matt. 26: 42.) He is our example. Hence the words of James 1: 2-4. (2) It is a prayer publicly answered for the people's sake, vs. 27-30. Thrice a voice came to Him from heaven, at the beginning, in the middle, and near the close of His ministry. (Matt. 3: 17; 17: 5;

John 12: 28.)

4. *Great issues He announces.* (1) The crisis of the world. Men tested, judged, separated as chaff from wheat by their attitude to Him. (John 3: 18; Heb. 2: 3.) (2) The prince of this world cast out, v. 31. (Comp. 14: 30; Eph. 2: 2; 6: 12; 1 John 3: 8.) (3) The crucified and glorified Son of Man to draw all men, v. 32. How? By His word and by His Spirit. (John 16: 13, 14.)

## For Teachers or the Boys and Girls

Three questions and the answers to them make up the lesson.

1. *Who sought to see Jesus?* It was a search for Jesus by men not of His own country. We are carried back to the Christmas lesson (Matt. 2: 1-11), when the "Wise Men from the East" came to Jerusalem at His birth. Their search was for a king, the "King of the Jews." That of these "Greeks" was apparently the quest of men eager to know of the doctrine of Jesus, of what He had to teach concerning life and how it is to be lived. Thus, at least, we judge from the response that Jesus makes.

2. *Who helped them on their way?* The "Wise Men" applied to the blood-thirsty Herod, who, in obtaining direction for them, sought the babe's life. These Greeks apply to a willing disciple. It was a curious request. Would Jesus care to communicate with Gentiles, and especially in the Temple and at a Feast time? Philip takes the prudent course of consulting Andrew. They agree to tell Jesus. The readiness of the disciples to bring others to their Master, and, withal their prudence in His service are to be marked. A high honor was theirs to be permitted to be the medium of communication between the Saviour and these representatives of the Gentiles.

3. *What did Jesus show Himself?*

(1) He does not seem to have admitted the Greeks in person to His presence. (He was in the Court of the Women, where it was unlawful for them to come.) The time had not yet arrived, for Him or for them, for a full revelation.

(2) He revealed, however, many and deep