

he afraid of them? Did he make any mistakes in his reply? What in v. 8 makes sure he did not? Emphasize the guidance and help of the Holy Ghost in the lives of the apostles and of all true servants of God. Have Peter's reply (vs. 8-12) read, verse by verse, and be sure that the meaning of each is understood. Develop the figure in v. 11. Show how the stability of a building depends on the foundation corner stone. (See Ps. 118 : 22 ; Matt. 21 : 42 ; Luke 20 : 17.) It is interesting to note that, at all the quarries controlled by the Romans, an official marked each block of stone taken out as either approved or rejected.

Have v. 13 read in unison. Discuss the influence of companions and urge care in the choice of friends. Picture the deliberations and embarrassment of the council, as described in vs. 14-16, then have a pupil read the decision, vs. 17, 18. Did Peter and John promise to obey? Vs. 19, 20. Why? Impress the truth that only when obedience to God makes it necessary, is one justified in refusing to obey constituted authority. What does v. 21 tell us? Jesus had told his disciples that these things would come to them (Luke 21 : 12), and had promised to help them, Luke 21 : 15. Discuss with the pupils the manner in which this promise was fulfilled. Close with the Golden Text.

FOR TEACHERS IN THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Teachers in the Primary Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the PRIMARY QUARTERLY.

AIM OF THE LESSON. To show the nobility of Christian bravery in its combination of strength and sweetness.

INTRODUCTION. You would think that every one ought to be glad when a poor lame beggar man could be healed as Peter and John had healed the man of whom we talked last Sunday. But the very same rulers and high officials of the city who had put Jesus to death, were much troubled over all the wonderful things that had been happening. They thought that the disciples would all be so afraid after the terrible days when they saw the dear Jesus suffer and die, that they would not teach and preach the things he had taught them; but instead of being afraid they had gone right along, preaching in the streets and in the temple until now there were over five thousand Christians, enough to make a city just by themselves.

So these high priests and rulers gathered together and said, "What shall we do?" Every day more people were following the disciples and becoming believers in Jesus, and that made these men afraid that they would lose their power.

THE STORY. The people who had seen the lame man healed were crowding around Peter and John listening to the story of Jesus which they were telling, when suddenly a band of soldiers came and took Peter and John away. Soldiers had taken Jesus from the Garden of

Gethsemane when Peter and John were with him. They knew all about his trial before these same men (the court called the Sanhedrin) and you can imagine how they felt when they knew that the next day they were to come before that same court. Would the Sanhedrin say that they, too, must give up their lives as Jesus did?

Peter had one time been afraid of the Jewish rulers, and had said he did not know Jesus when he thought they might arrest him and take him in where Jesus' trial was going on. But he was not afraid now. Quietly, bravely, he and John walked in and stood before the great Sanhedrin, and when they asked them by what power they healed the lame man Peter said, "Be it known to you all and to all the people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even in him doth this man stand before you whole." Then he said, "There is no other name but that of Jesus, whereby we can be saved." Whoever had heard of such a thing as that! Peter was actually preaching to the Sanhedrin and telling those great men how to be saved!

The men of the Sanhedrin "marveled," the Bible says. In their hearts they knew that these plain fishermen who had been with Jesus had with them a strange power, the power of God. And the men of the Sanhedrin were afraid. There beside Peter