

Lesson IX.

[THE CRUCIFIXION]

May 28, 1905

John 19 : 17-30. Study vs. 1-42—Memory Verses, 25-27.

Golden Text—Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures.—1 Corinthians 15 : 3.

17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the *place* of a skull, which is called in the He'brew Gol'gotha :

18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Je'sus in the midst.

19 And Pi'lato wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, *JE'SUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS*.

20 This title then read many of the Jews : for the place where Je'sus was crucified was nigh to the city : and it was written in He'brew, and Greek, and La'tin.

21 Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pi'lato, Write not, The King of the Jews ; but that he said, I am King of the Jews.

22 Pi'lato answered, What I have written I have written.

23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Je'sus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part ; and also *his* coat : now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.

24 They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose

it shall be : that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

25 Now there stood by the cross of Je'sus his mother, and his mother's sister, Ma'ry the *wife* of Cle'ophas, and Ma'ry Magdale'ne.

26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son !

27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother ! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own *home*.

28 After this, Je'sus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar : and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put *it* upon hyssop, and put *it* to his mouth.

30 When Je'sus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished : and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

THE LESSON RETOLD

It was not the custom that anyone should be put to death inside Jerusalem. So Jesus was taken to be crucified to a hill just outside the city, which was called Golgotha, meaning skull-shaped. Calvary is another name, with the same meaning as Golgotha.

The rough Roman soldiers took the heavy wooden cross which Jesus had been forced to carry all the way from Pilate's palace, and when they had nailed Him upon it, they stood it up by placing one end in the ground, and left Jesus to die. Such a punishment as this was given only to the very worst of criminals, and, though Jesus had done no wrong, His cross was placed between those of two robbers, as if He had been the most wicked of all.

Because there was no crime with which Jesus could be charged, Pilate wrote over His cross these words, to show why He had been put to death : "THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS." This title was written in three languages, so that even strangers passing beside the cross might be able to read it. When the Jews saw what the governor had written, they were very angry, and going to Pilate, they demanded that he should alter the writing to read, "He calls himself the King of the Jews" ; but Pilate would not change it.

When this cruel work was finished, the soldiers who had crucified Jesus sat down on the ground and began to amuse themselves.