

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Matt. 5: 10. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

## DAILY READINGS.

M. —Acts 5: 12-21. Delivered from prison.  
T. —Acts 5: 25-42. The second persecution.  
W. —Matt. 27: 17-25. Responsibility accepted.  
Th. —Dan. 3: 8-18. God first.  
F. —1 Peter 3: 8-18. Suffering for righteousness.  
S. —1 Peter 4: 12-19. Partakers with Christ.  
S. —Luke 6: 17-26. Blessed are ye!

## CATECHISM

Q. 8. How doth God execute His decrees?  
A. God executeth his decrees in the works of creation and providence.  
Q. 9. What is the work of creation?  
A. The work of creation is, God's making all

things of nothing, by the word of His power, in the space of six days, and all very good.

## TIME AND PLACE

Following close upon the lesson of last Sabbath, the date somewhere between A. D. 30 and 33, and the place Solomon's porch, one of the porches of the Temple, and the hall of the Sanhedrin or Great Council.

## LESSON PLAN

I. Blind Rage, 33.  
On the part of the Council against the apostles.  
II. Good Advice, 34-40.  
By Gamaliel, who would not fight against God.  
III. Beaten yet not dismayed, 41, 42.  
Cannot shame honor, the apostles cease not preaching.

## LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 100 (Ps. Sel.); 293; 274; 256; 533; 588.

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

**Juniors**—After the death of Ananias and Sapphira what wonderful things were done by the apostles? What was the result of this? What did the high priest do? Who released the apostles? What message were they to proclaim? And where? How did they act? Before whom were they brought? With what were they charged? (v. 28.) What noble answer was given? What does obedience to God include? (Isa. 42: 24; Rom. 1: 5; Rom. 13: 1.) Whence should it proceed? (Rom. 6: 17.) What does Peter recall to their minds? (30, 31.)

33 How were the Council affected by what they heard? In what great danger were the apostles? From what has God promised to deliver His people? (Ps. 106: 42, 43; Job 5: 19.)

34 Who gave advice? Who was he? Name one of his disciples who became celebrated. (Acts 22: 3.)

35-39 What warning did Gamaliel give? Who were Theudas and Judas. What was to be the proof of the apostles' work? What risk would they run in opposing them?

40-42 How were the apostles treated? What effect had it upon them? What blessing did they win?

**Seniors and the Home Department**—33 With what had Peter been charging the Council of the Jews? To what should conviction of guilt lead? (Isa. 64: 6.) To what did it lead in this case?

34-37 Who interfered for the apostles? Tell what you know about Gamaliel? What false teacher had arisen? With what success?

38, 39 How was the work of the apostles to be tested? "If God be for us, who can be against us"?

40-42 What did the apostles suffer? What command given to them? How did they regard it? What promise given to those who suffer for Christ's sake? (Matt. 5: 10.) What supports under persecution? (1 Cor. 15: 19; Heb. 10: 34-36.) From what can persecution not separate? (Rom. 8: 35.) With what is it inconsistent? (Matt. 26: 52; Rom. 12: 19-21.) What produces boldness? (Isa. 50: 7; 1 Tim. 3: 13.)

**Prove from Scripture**—That obedience to God is our first duty.

## Practical Points—

1. "Oh, weary ones; ye may not see  
Your helpers in their downward flight;  
Nor hear the sound of silver wings  
Slow beating through the hush of night."

None the less "the angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them."

2. The angel delivered the apostles from prison, but sent them into the very face of death in the Temple. God's deliverances are not that we may be spared, or shrink, but that we may the more boldly fight.

3. Every boy and man—woman and girl too—should write, not on the walls of their rooms merely, but on the tables of their hearts, those words of valor: "WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MAN."

4. Blind rage is likely to be foolish rage, as the prudent Gamaliel shows.

5. Gamaliel was right; it is God's plans alone which succeed in the long run. To fight against God is certain defeat, to fight with Him is certain victory.

## FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What was Gamaliel's advice? .....

2. Explain the joy of the apostles, v. 41. ....

3. When is it unfortunate to be honored? .....