

LESSON XI—June 14th, 1896.

Jesus Crucified. LUKE 23: 33-46.

(Commit to memory verses 44-46).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures." 1 Cor. 15: 3.

PROVE THAT—Jesus saves all who come to him. John 3: 16.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 63. *Which is the fifth commandment?* A. The fifth commandment is, Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 50, 79, 68, 87.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Accused and mocked. Luke 23: 1-12. *Tuesday.* Innocent, yet condemned. Luke 23: 13-26. *Wednesday.* Jesus crucified. Luke 23: 33-46. *Thursday.* Numbered with transgressors. Mark 15: 22-32. *Friday.* The cross foreseen. John 12: 20-33. *Saturday.* He suffered for us. 1 Pet. 2: 19-25. *Sabbath.* Blessed results. Rom. 8: 31-39. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Our lesson to-day is about the saddest scene, yet the most glorious event, in the world's history. Read the whole narrative in Luke 23: 26-56 and compare the parallel passages in Matt. (27: 31-66), Mark (15: 20-39) and John (19: 16-42).

LESSON PLAN. I. The Meek Sufferer. vs. 33-38. II. The Penitent Thief. vs. 39-43. III. The Rent Veil. vs. 44-46.

33. Cal'va-ry—in Latin *Calvaria*, hence our "Calvary." It was likely called "The Head" or "Place of a Skull" from its appearance. The Hebrew name was "Golgotha" which means the same (Matt. 27: 33). **They crucified him**—He was nailed to the cross as it lay on the ground. It was then raised up and allowed to slide or drop into the hole dug for it. His feet would be only a foot or two above the ground. He was offered the stupefying draught usually given mercifully to criminals, but refused it (Matt. 27: 34). He did not wish to cloud his mind or escape one pang of the appointed suffering. **The malefactors**—"Thieves" (Matt. 27: 38), brigands. Perhaps comrades of Barabbas. They wished to treat Jesus as if he were as bad as the vilest criminal (ch. 22: 37; Isa. 53: 9). **34. Father, forgive them**—(Isa. 53: 12; Matt. 5: 44; Acts 7: 60; 1 Cor. 4: 12). This was the first of the seven words from the cross. For the others see verse 43; John 19: 26; Matt. 27: 46; John 19: 28-30; Luke 23: 46. They did not know that they were slaying their Messiah (1 Cor. 2: 8; Acts 3: 17). **Cast lots**—The four soldiers who nailed Jesus to the cross claimed his garments (John 10: 23; Ps. 22: 17, 18). They mounted guard at the cross (Matt. 27: 36). **35. Derided him**—"Railed on him" (Mark 15: 29). He saved others—These words were spoken in cruel mockery but we know that he could not save himself just because he was "the Christ, the chosen of God." **36. Offering him vinegar**—They mocked his agony of thirst by lifting up to his parched lips cups of sour wine and snatching them away again before he could taste them.

It was about the time when they would be eating their midday meal. **38. A superscription**—The criminal's name and offence were written on a white tablet which was nailed to the cross above his head. The Jews were offended at this inscription (John 19: 21, 22). **39. One of the malefactors**—At first both seem to have joined in reviling Jesus but the meek, patient sufferer moved one of them to pity and penitence. **40, 41.** He gives four reasons why they, at least, should not rail at Jesus, (1) They are about to appear before God, (2) They share the same fate as he, (3) They deserve their death, (4) Jesus is an innocent victim. **42. Lord, remember me**—What wonderful faith. "He calls him Lord whom the very apostles had left, and recognizes him as a King who even when dead could benefit the dead." He loyally saluted one whom every lip derided. He owned him sinless who was numbered with transgressors. **43. Paradise**—There would be no delay but that very evening he would enter heaven with Jesus, a trophy of his victory upon the cross. **44. The sixth hour—Noon. All the earth**—R. V. "over the whole land." **45. The sun was darkened**—This could not have been an eclipse for the moon was at the full. **The veil of the temple**—The veil which hung before the Holy of Holies. This denoted that God no longer "dwelt between the cherubim" (Heb. 10: 19, 20). **46. A loud voice**—The strong, full tones shewed that the life of Jesus did not flicker out by protracted suffering, but that he "gave up the ghost" by a voluntary act (John 10: 17, 18).

LESSONS. 1. The evil nature of sin. 2. The greatness of man's danger. 3. The fulfillment of Scripture. 4. The justice and holiness of God. 5. The wondrous love and mercy of God. 6. The greatness of the work of redemption.